

*History of
100 Years*

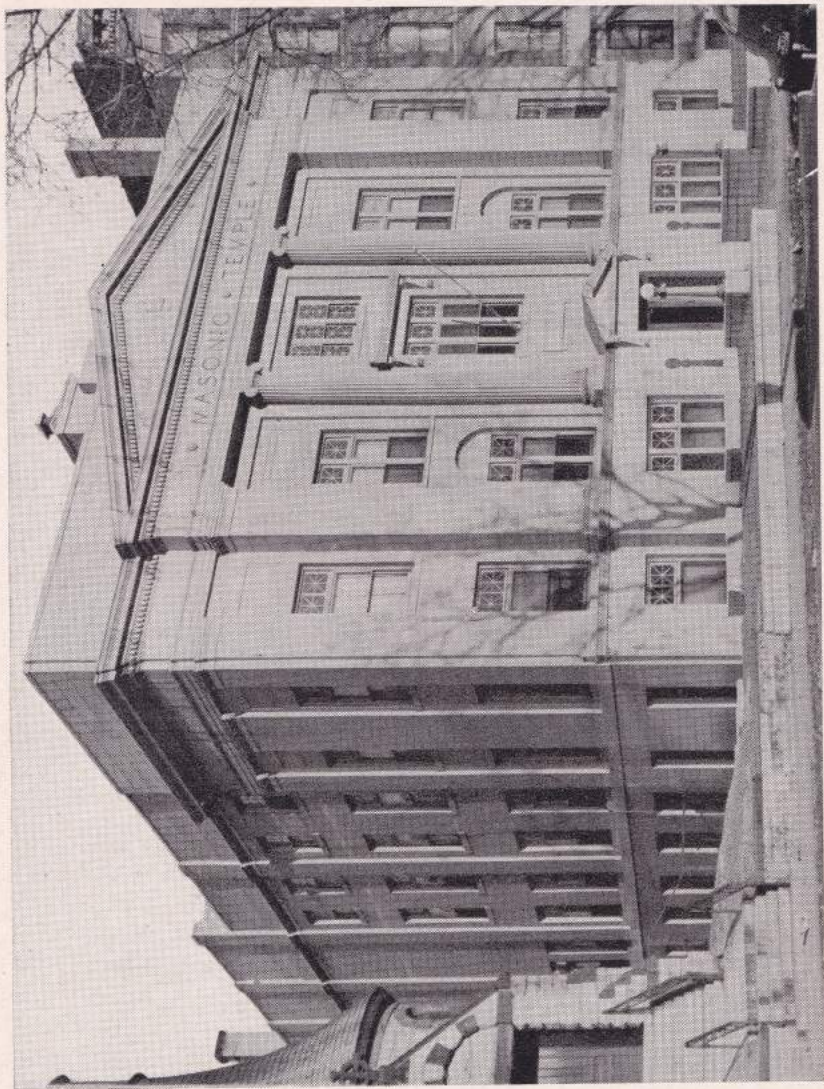
1850



1950

MOUNT TOM LODGE, A. F. & A. M.
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Please Return to
Bill Miles



MASONIC TEMPLE, 235 CHESTNUT STREET

Foreword

The Bible, the Great Light in Masonry, asserts the allotted time of man is "three score years and ten." Medical science and research have added about five years. When at sixty-two I was asked to write a history of the Lodge for its seventy-fifth anniversary, I never thought that twenty-five years later I would be asked to prepare a history for the one-hundredth anniversary.

Only four members who equalled my age then are still members of the Lodge. They are Herbert B. Cowan, Walter P. Crosby, William A. Prentiss and James Sinclair. The all devouring scythe of time has gathered into the land where our fathers have gone before us many of our members in the past twenty-five years. Our mortality rate has been high owing to the large number who joined in the early years of our existence.

I wish to express my deep appreciation for the assistance I have received from Rt. Wor. Robert Gillette and Brother Henry C. Mallon. Bro. Gillette, who has been secretary for the past twenty-two years, has given much time to the perusal of the minutes from 1850 to date and has copied important and interesting data from the records. Bro. Mallon has made an exhaustive search for historical events, and newspaper items of interest. Their combined help has lessened my task materially.

This history may be roughly divided into two parts. First, an overall picture of the past one hundred years; second, excerpts from the records with some annotations.

May your enjoyment in reading this history be as great as has been mine in preparing it.

RT. WOR. A. A. BROOKS

Historical Sketch of Mount Tom Lodge

R. W. ARCHIBALD A. BROOKS

IN human affairs old age is usually the mark of decline in life but in an institution such as ours it becomes a period of veneration. Our Institution which has come to us out of the myths of ancient times, shedding its light and disseminating its glorious principles; principles so broad as to embrace in their philanthropy the whole human family, a hundred years is but a brief span. In our own State of Massachusetts, the birth-place of duly constituted Masonry in America, Lodges have been in existence for upwards of two hundred years, one having exceeded that mark. There are seventy-one Lodges over one hundred years old of which thirty-three have passed the one hundred and fifty year mark and thirty-seven have reached or passed their centennial year in a total of three hundred and thirteen Lodges. And yet, today having reached our one hundredth birthday, we show no signs of decreptude, no sere or yellow leaves flutter around us. Time but gives us renewed strength and vigor; and looking backward we are animated by the lives and deeds of the Brethren who have gone before and who by the zeal and devotion they have displayed, inspire within us a desire to emulate their good works and to realize that the value of our existence as a Lodge lies not in the number of years that we have lived but what we have done and are doing; and after reviewing the records one can freely testify to the fact that the years have been filled with deeds of true beneficence and of a large measure of service—our real mission—and are truly worthy of our commemoration and honor.

EARLY HOLYOKE

Previous to the year 1850 what is now known as Holyoke was a part of the Town of West Springfield and known as Ireland Parish or Depot and for a long time consisted only of the "street" or what is now Northampton Street extending for about two miles from the old Northampton line to Baptist Village now Elmwood. About a mile to the eastward toward the rising of the sun, a new settlement had sprung up, down where the waters of the "long river" were tumbling over the rocks and rushing unhindered to the great sea, things had happened; men with vision had come to the scene, men with plans to harness the great water power; a great dam had been built and swept away, another larger and different from anything in the world had taken its place, a system of canals intended to supply unlimited power had been designed and plans of a City which it was hoped would be the greatest manufacturing city in New England were drawn.

dump cart were the chief equipment of the day and the canals were being dug and streets laid out and levelled by that means. Oil lamps and candles were the only means of lighting as a gas works was some years away. Thus it may be said that the Town and City as well as the Lodge have shared the growing pains, vicissitudes and prosperity together.

EARLY MASONRY

ALTHOUGH the records in our possession are silent on the matter, we may safely conclude that the Brethren in Ireland Parish or Depot, at that time still a part of West Springfield, during the winter of 1849 met at various times, in their homes, perhaps, and discussed the advisability of forming a Masonic Lodge, and having a firm belief in the words of the Psalmist,

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity"

resolved to unite themselves into a society of friends and brothers, to bind themselves more closely together, allow them to meet in fraternal friendship, strengthen one another in all the relations of life and make friendship unalloyed, unselfish, and pure.

Upon the receipt of the Warrant from the Grand Lodge, the eight original petitioners proceeded to form the new Lodge. They were Brothers Samuel Knox Hutchinson, Hezekiah Hutchins, Robert T. Buss, Nathaniel W. Quint, Samuel B. Oliver, Samuel Flinn, Charles Mason and William P. Gevat. Brothers S. K. Hutchinson, Hezekiah Hutchins and Robert T. Buss were appointed Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, respectively.

According to our records the first Communication under the Dispensation was held on April 5, 1850 of which the following is a copy:

"Mount Tom Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons
met at their Hall. Opened on the 1st. Degree
of Masonry. Present
Master, S. K. Hutchinson.
S. Warden, H. Hutchins.
J. Warden, R. T. Buss.
Treasurer,
Secretary, Wm. Withey.
S. Deacon, N. W. Quint.
J. Deacon, B. Withey.
Brother S. Flinn.
Brother C. Mason.
Tyler, M. Palmer."

(The Treasurer's chair was vacant,—the reason perhaps is obvious)

"Received the petitions of Charles F. Ingalls, Daniel E. Emerson, Wm. W. Giddings.

Voted to accept the petitions and refer them to a Committee of Investigation.

It might be of interest to note the conditions that prevailed and sketch the scene at the time of the institution of our Lodge. On March 14, 1850 the old Third Parish of West Springfield, otherwise known as Ireland Parish passed out of existence and the Town of Holyoke came into being with the granting of its Charter by the Great and General Court of Massachusetts. Also on the same day our Lodge was born with the granting of a Warrant by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. The population was but 3245 souls but it comprised a busy and hardworking group of people. The dam had been completed, a cotton mill erected and a large machine shop built. In addition a number of buildings housing stores and tenements had been put up on High Street between Fountain and Dwight Streets and side streets in that area. Prominent among them was the building at High and Dwight Streets on the present site of the Holyoke National Bank which housed the provision market of Samuel B. and Anderson Allyn. Next to it stood the A. S. Peck block in which Holyoke Lodge of Odd Fellows was located. Adjacent to this stood Warren Chapin's block and hall in which many social, religious and political events were held. The next building was known as the Colby Block, later called the Carter Block and next to it stood the Exchange Building, in which hall many public affairs took place. These four latter buildings all had connections in one way or another with Masonic affairs.

At the corner of High and Fountain Streets stood the Cataract House and on Maple Street near Hampden the Samosett House was nearing completion. It was in this hostelry which is still standing, that the Constitution and Consecration supper was held. The Holyoke House, later known as the Hotel Hamilton was under construction. It was completed that Fall at a cost of \$100,000, a large outlay for the size of the town, and was considered one of the finest in New England. On the outskirts of the town was the old Abner Miller Tavern, built in 1785 and later known as Craft's Tavern, as it is today. It had served the old farming community of Ireland Parish for many years but was some distance from the bustling new town.

The Connecticut River Railroad extending from Springfield to the North served the new town and the Hampden Freeman, which was issued weekly, supplied the news to the growing village. Across the river was a settlement known as Locks Village (the present South Hadley Falls) which was reached by a swing ferry below the present County bridge.

While there were four church societies at the time only two occupied their own structures, the First Congregational and the First Baptist; the other two, the Second Congregational and the Second Baptist, met in rented quarters. The former erected its own church edifice two years later on the present site of the Marble Block at High and Dwight Streets.

Wages in those days ranged from 85 cents to \$1.00 a day for a twelve hour day and six day week. The pick and the shovel, the horse and the

Voted that the first officers of the Lodge be that Committee.

Lecture on the First Degree of Masonry.

Lodge closed in due form.

W. WITHEY, *Secretary.*"

Brother Hutchinson evidently took a deep interest in the new Lodge, for at the next Communication on May 3, he offered to furnish funds to the amount of one hundred dollars to defray expenses and wait until the Lodge could refund the amount. On the same day the Lodge worked for the first time, C. F. Ingalls, D. E. Emerson and William W. Giddings being initiated into the E. A. Degree. On June 7, a code of By-Laws was read and adopted. The Master Mason Degree was worked for the first time on July 26, Brother C. F. Ingalls being the first candidate raised in the Lodge. On Dec. 6, it was voted to apply for a Charter, which was granted on Dec. 12, 1850, and was signed by Edward A. Raymond, Grand Master, Thomas M. Vinson, Senior Grand Warden and Charles W. Moore, Grand Secretary, the date of precedence being March 14, 1850, as previously stated. The first meeting place of the Lodge was in a hall rented from Holyoke Lodge of Odd Fellows in Peck's Block, standing on a lot adjoining the present Holyoke National Bank.

On January 9, 1851, the Lodge was duly Consecrated. This was the first public function and the event is recorded as follows:

Holyoke, Jan. 9th, 1851, A. D., 5851 A. L.

Agreeably to the appointment of the District Deputy Grand Master, Franklin Weston, the officers and Brethren of Mount Tom Lodge in Holyoke met at the Lodge-room on High St., where the usual ceremonies were performed prior to forming a procession. The procession formed and marched to Exchange Hall under the marshaling of Bro. James Crooks, the Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master, acting as Grand Marshal. In the hall the usual ceremonies of music, prayer, etc., were performed, the oration being delivered by Rev. Bro. Cook of North Adams. Bro. S. K. Hutchinson was presented to the Grand Master as the Master Elect, after which the Lodge was Consecrated with the usual and appropriate ceremonies. Bro. Hutchinson was then duly installed Master of the Lodge; Bro. Hezekiah Hutchins, Senior Warden; Bro. Samuel Flinn, Junior Warden, Bro. D. C. Emerson, Treasurer; Bro. W. B. C. Pearsons, Secretary; Bro. Nathaniel W. Quint, Senior Deacon; Bro. Charles H. Ingalls, Junior Deacon; and Bro. W. W. Giddings, Tyler. After the Brethren received their charge the Grand Marshal proclaimed the new Lodge by the name of Mount Tom Lodge to be Constituted, Consecrated, and the officers duly installed. The benediction was then pronounced, and the Brethren forming in procession returned to the Lodge-room where the usual ceremonies were performed, after which the Brethren present, with

certain strangers, partook of an elegant and palate-satisfying supper at the Samosett House.

The proceedings were in a remarkable degree harmonious and had an obvious tendency to allay the prejudices existing against our Ancient and Honorable Institution, and of reconciling all persons to the truthfulness of its purposes.

W. B. C. PEARSONS, Sec'y.

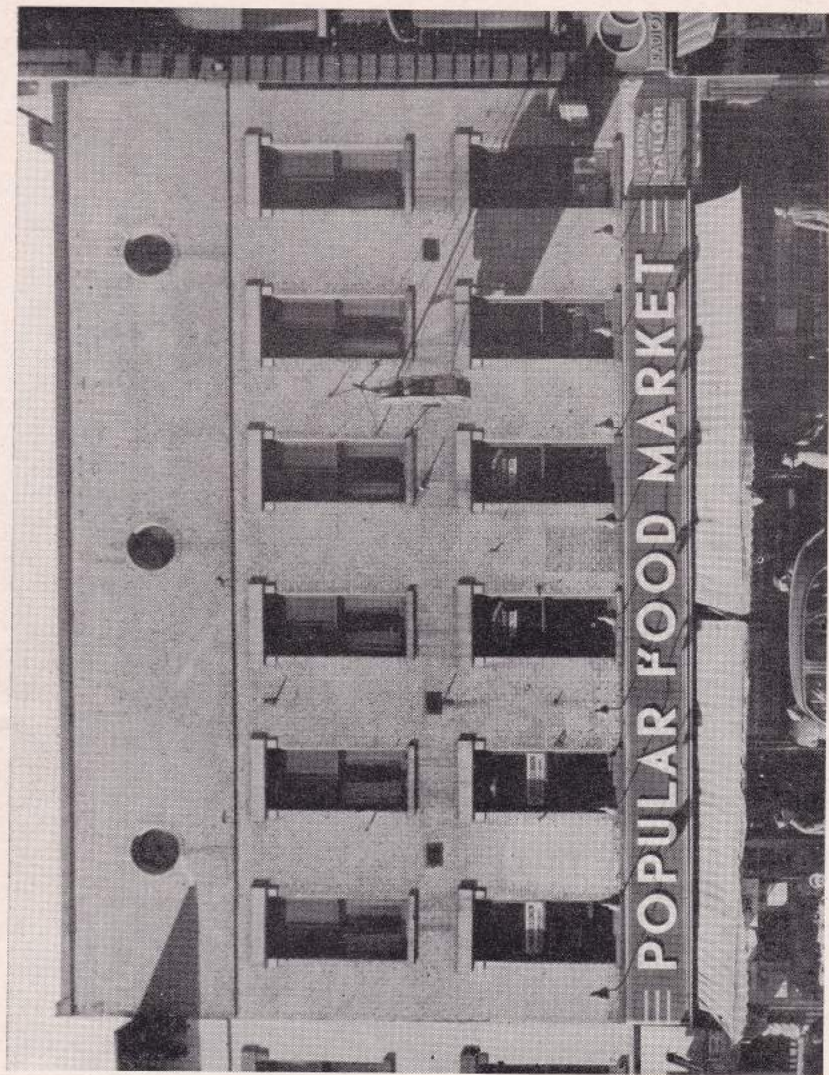
The "Hampden Freeman" under the date of Jan. 9, 1851 reported the affair as follows:

"**MASONIC GATHERING.** The ceremonies of consecration of Mt. Tom Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons took place on Thursday evening last, at Exchange Hall when the officers were installed in due form. The oration explanatory of the objects and principles of the Order was given by Rev. Cook of North Adams who treated his subject in a very able manner and was listened to by a goodly number with evident interest and attention. After the ceremonies at the hall were ended the Lodge repaired with their brethren from abroad, to the Samosett House, and partook of a most excellent supper, which Mr. Marsh had prepared for them. The tables were loaded with everything the epicure could wish for, and a large company soon seated themselves at them, and partook of the luxuries spread before them with good relish. After paying due honors to the eatables, speeches were made, songs and glees were sung and toasts given, till near 12 o'clock, when the company broke up and repaired to their homes, all appearing satisfied with the evening's entertainment."

THE early records show that the sum of \$15 had to accompany an application which included the cost of the Entered Apprentice Degree. The fee for the Fellow Craft Degree was \$3 and \$2 was the charge for the Master Mason Degree. Furthermore, a ballot was also taken on each of the last two degrees before the candidate was advanced. The annual dues were \$1 payable in quarterly installments. The Lodge room was heated by a stove for which was paid \$3.25 for half a cord of wood according to an early entry. No doubt the lighting and heating duties fell upon the Tyler. The rent for the hall for 1850 was only \$30 which was quite fortunate for the Lodge had as its cash balance on Dec. 6, 1850, but fourteen cents. During the year, under dispensation, twenty-four Communications were held and eight candidates were raised.

On August 18, 1852 misfortune struck the Lodge through the fire which destroyed Peck's Block in which we held our meetings. The hall was rented from Holyoke Lodge of Odd Fellows. All the property of the Lodge was lost except the Charter, Book of Records and By-Laws and Treasurer's book which were not in the building at the time, for which we are truly thankful and they are all in good condition today.

On August 21, 1852, three days after the destruction of the building, which occurred under mysterious circumstances, there appeared in the "Hampden Freeman", a poem signed by W. W. G., evidently William W. Giddings, Junior Warden of the Lodge. Saddened by the loss, his poetic leanings inspired the following:



BUILDING AT 203 HIGH STREET (AS IT LOOKS TODAY)
Mount Tom Lodge used the upper floors from 1852 to 1895

"Thou ruined Hall, oh! where art thou?
Low mingled with the dust of earth
Where Friendship shone from every brow
As childhood round its parent hearth.

Where oft kind Charity has shone
Within thy walls her pearly light
As angels from their distant thrones
To soothe the heart in sorrow's night.

Low midst these ruins now are laid
The treasures of these kindred bands
For self's or will's avenging blade
Plucked by a demon's ruthless hand.

Such is man where passions blight
Bereft of virtue to rebel
There's naught secure within that night
Where will and reckless passions dwell."

Our Regular Communications of September and October of that year were held in the hall of Chapin's Building just north of the recently destroyed Peck's Block. Our next location was in the building later known as Carter's Block, adjacent to Chapin's Building and Hall and which at the time was owned by Bro. A. O. Colby. Here the Lodge met continuously for forty-three years or until 1895. This building is still standing. During our occupancy the building underwent alterations and improvements at various times, the most important being in 1869 and is referred to by the D. D. G. M., D. W. Crafts of Jerusalem Lodge in his report: "Mount Tom Lodge has materially improved its hall and is now one of the best in the District, and very handsomely furnished, which reflects great credit upon its members."

The early entries on the records show items of financial interest such as:

In 1855 our stove was replaced with a more elaborate one at the price of \$18 and in 1860 an odd expense was incurred when a harp was purchased for \$16.80. History does not record the name of the Brother who played the instrument. In 1863 the Lodge appeared quite prosperous or perhaps more civic minded when it loaned \$180 "to the first Fire Department of the Town of Holyoke."

While our records afford but little information we know from other sources that during the dark days of the Civil War many of our Brethren, overflowing with patriotic fervor, responded to their country's call, some never to return.

As a mark of respect for our late President, Abraham Lincoln, it was voted that the hall be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days.

WILLIAM WHITING

IN 1866, at the age of twenty-five, Bro. William Whiting became a member of the Lodge and was accorded the honor of being elected Treasurer for that year. His records are a remarkable example of detail, neatness and penmanship. He had the previous year established his paper manufacturing business and was to go on to greater things in which his name was synonymous with all that was great and good in Holyoke. At the age of thirty-seven he was nominated by both political parties and elected Mayor of the city, and later was elected a member of Congress. He erected the Holyoke Opera House and Windsor Hotel when only thirty-six years old.

His charities and support of civic institutions were widespread and knew no bounds. Finally in 1909, a year before his death, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts granted the unusual honor of permitting a Lodge to be named after a living person in the name of William Whiting Lodge.

LODGE GROWTH

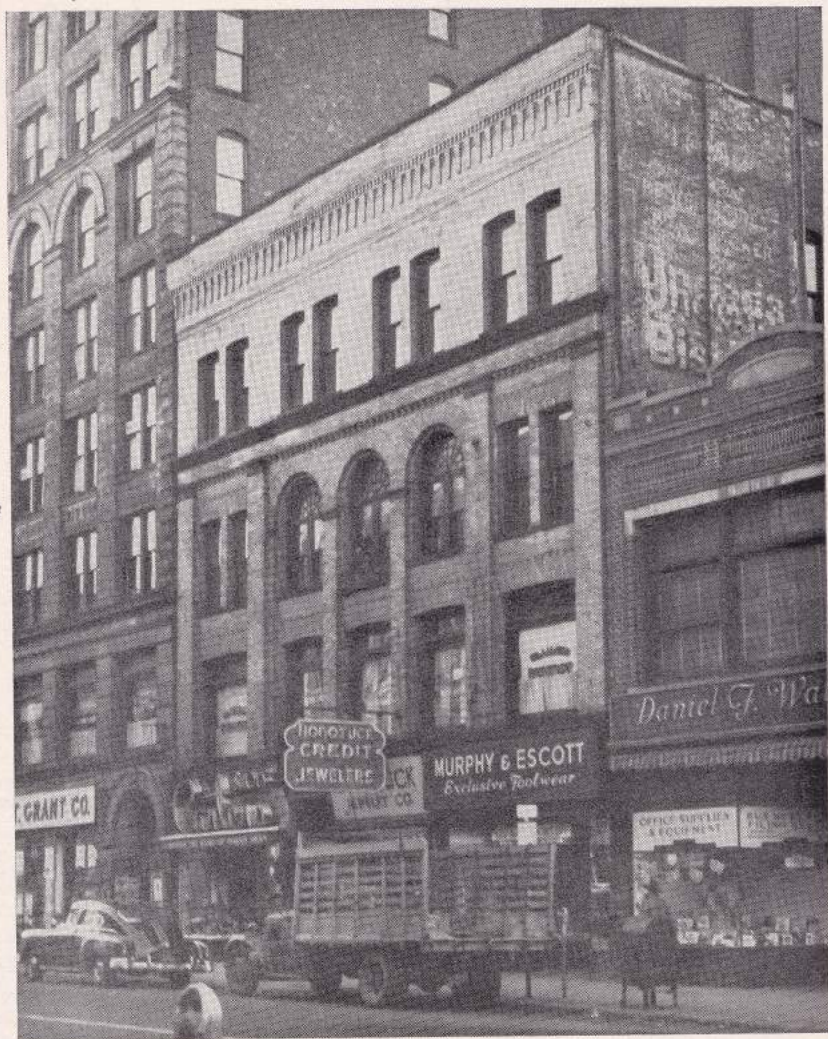
During the middle seventies considerable agitation was on foot towards securing a new hall, several propositions were considered, among them, the new Craft's Building, now owned by the Holyoke Caledonian Club. It is evident that the building was intended for Masonic purposes, as on the front a Masonic emblem may be seen. The plan miscarried and Carter's Block with more improvements was our home until 1895 at a yearly rental of \$400 during the last ten years.

The members of the Lodge residing in South Hadley Falls having grown in numbers, felt that the time had arrived for taking action towards the establishment of a Lodge in their town. They accordingly requested permission of our Lodge to proceed with their plans. On March 5, 1869 it was unanimously voted to grant their request and recommend that their petition be granted by the Grand Lodge.

The improvement of our hall and social rooms was a subject that was close to the heart of Bro. William Grover and he accordingly submitted plans for the improvement of the same. On the completion of the work a Special Communication was held for the Installation and Dedication of the new Hall on March 12, 1880. It was evidently a very gala occasion as the records mention that "Ladies and visitors were admitted" and the "Lodge with guests were then invited to repair to the Windsor where a banquet had been prepared."

A new custom was established in 1882 in rewarding retiring masters with a Past Master's Jewel. The records show that the first recipient was Wor. Bro. Lewis M. Richards.

Except at funerals the public appearances of the Fraternity have been comparatively few in number. On October 21, 1892, the members



BUILDING AT 280 HIGH STREET (AS IT LOOKS TODAY)
Mount Tom Lodge used upper floors from 1895 to 1921

to the number of one hundred and eighteen, escorted by the Holyoke members of Springfield Commandery, Knights Templars, journeyed to Springfield for the laying of the corner-stone of what is now the old Temple in that city.

Our next move was to the Hubbard and Taber Block on High Street. The Lodge-room was dedicated on December 27, 1895, by the Rt. Wor. Samuel B. Spooner, by virtue of a Warrant from the Most Wor. Grand Master Edwin B. Holmes. The new quarters were a great improvement over the old and the facilities for social enjoyment, being greatly increased, were taken advantage of to the fullest extent, resulting in greater prosperity than ever before.

On October 10, 1903, the corner-stone of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church was laid by the Rt. Wor. Charles C. Spellman and suite by virtue of a Warrant from the Most Wor. Grand Master Baalis Sanford in which one hundred and fifty of the Brethren took part. Springfield Commandery, Knights Templars was present, making a total of about three hundred and fifty in line.

During the latter part of 1908 there was considerable discussion as to the need and desirability of establishing a new Lodge in the City. After a series of informal meetings by a group of our members it was decided to petition the Lodge for permission to apply for a Dispensation from the Grand Lodge. This was done on January 1, 1909, the same was granted on January 7, 1909 and the new Lodge came into being on that day under the name of William Whiting Lodge with thirty-three Charter members. Wor. Bro. Abraham Davis, who was a Past Master of Mount Tom Lodge, was selected as first Master.

With two Lodges in operation Masonry prospered and as a result many of the Brethren thought that steps should be taken toward building or acquiring quarters of our own. The Holyoke Masonic Association had been incorporated the previous May for that purpose and a great deal of interest had been shown in the matter. On September 2, 1910, a proposition was received from the Holyoke Masonic Association setting forth an opportunity to purchase the James H. Newton home on Chestnut St., now owned by the Holyoke Day Nursery. Nothing was done and the matter dropped. In 1913 stronger agitation developed with the idea of eventually erecting our own building. It resulted in the purchase of the lot upon which our Temple stands and for which the sum of \$13,000 was paid. The interest and zeal of the members grew and it was voted to pay into the hands of the Trustees at the end of each Masonic year, two-fifths of all money received for dues. In addition, the Lodge purchased three hundred shares of stock in the Holyoke Masonic Association for the sum of \$3000 during the period of 1912 to 1916.

WORLD WAR I

At our country's declaration of war in 1917 many young members of the Lodge responded to humanity's call, some of them among the

first of the American Expeditionary Force to set foot upon the soil of France. Alas, two did not return.

Two of our youngest members, stricken down in the flush of manhood, full of the joyous, unconquerable spirit of youth, met death unflinchingly and unafraid, for the sake of a great ideal, and for the welfare and freedom of generations yet to come.

“And with the flame of their bright youth unspent
Went shouting up the pathway to the sun,
O Valiant dead, take comfort where you lie,
So sweet to live? Magnificent to die!”

SERGT. RAYMOND B. THOMSON,
killed in action September 12, 1917

LIEUT. CHARLES R. WILBER,
killed in action September 29, 1917.

Another Brother whose memory we revere is John S. Mackenzie, whose deed brought fame to himself, his Lodge and his City. During a heavy gale on the North Sea, a depth bomb weighing several hundred pounds broke loose from its fastenings on the U.S.S. Remlik. The heavy seas washing the quarter-deck made it dangerous to attempt to reach that part of the ship. The safety pin fell out of the charge making it a source of great danger. Bro. Mackenzie immediately realizing the danger, dashed down the deck and flung himself upon the cylinder. After four attempts he finally righted it on its flat end and held it until lines could be run to him and the bomb safely lashed. For this daring act of heroism, our Government bestowed upon him its highest honor,—the Congressional Medal of Honor. The City of Holyoke has further honored his memory by naming its leading athletic field, Mackenzie Stadium.

One of the largest attended funerals ever conducted by the Order was that of Bro. Daniel J. Gallivan on March 23, 1918 when three hundred and forty-five Brothers turned out to pay their last respects. Bro. Gallivan was a member of Hancock Lodge No. 311, of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. When his remains were brought to Holyoke at the request of his aunt, an apron was found upon the body and as a result the remains were turned over to the Fraternity. Masonic services were held and the Brethren of both Mount Tom and William Whiting Lodges marched to Forestdale Cemetery where the remains were deposited with full Masonic Honors in the Masonic lot. A military squad fired a salute over the grave.

The Fraternity continued to grow and it was felt among some of our members that a new Lodge was warranted by the growing interest in the Order. The proposed new Temple with its greater facilities for Masonic

activities was no doubt an added stimulus...So on February 6, 1920, twelve Master Masons headed by Wor. Bro. Robert Gillette, petitioned the Lodge for approval to request a Dispensation from the Grand Lodge for the purpose of instituting a new Lodge in the City of Holyoke. This was granted by the Lodge and the Grand Lodge gave its formal assent on March 4, 1920. The new Lodge was instituted under the name of Mount Nonotuck Lodge with Wor. Bro. Robert Gillette as its first Master.

HOLYOKE'S MASONIC TEMPLE

The outstanding activity of the year 1920 was a two weeks' campaign for funds for the new Masonic Temple and its successful culmination in pledges amounting to \$150,000 to start the undertaking. Great progress was made and on September 11, 1920 the corner-stone was laid before a large and enthusiastic assemblage. This affair was one of the greatest ever held in Holyoke. The report of the Grand Lodge follows in part:

"SPECIAL COMMUNICATION AT HOLYOKE"

September 11, A. L. 5920.

LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE OF A MASONIC TEMPLE

"A Special Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was held in the City of Holyoke on Saturday, the eleventh day of September, A. L. 5920, A. D. 1920, for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of a Masonic Temple.

The Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form in an apartment of the Masonic quarters at ten minutes before two o'clock in the afternoon, and was immediately received in the Lodge-room by the Worshipful Master and members of Mount Tom Lodge. Following the reception the members of the Grand Lodge in automobiles were escorted by the Lodges of Holyoke and surrounding cities and towns, together with Springfield Commandery, Knights Templars, to the site of the new Masonic Temple. There were forty-two hundred Masons in line, making a far greater display than was ever before seen in this part of our state on such an occasion. The exercises were opened with the singing of the national anthem, followed by an address by His Honor John Cronin, Mayor of the City of Holyoke. A silver trowel being presented to the Grand Master by Brother Chipman, the corner-stone was then laid in full form in accordance with ancient usage. The Grand Master was assisted in spreading the cement by the Worshipful Masters of Mount Tom, William Whiting and Mount Nonotuck (U.D.) Lodges and His Honor the Mayor. The Grand Master made a beautiful and soul stirring address. Proclamation was made at five o'clock. A reception to the

Grand Lodge officers was held at the home of Brother William Whiting, after which the Grand Lodge repaired to the Masonic Apartments where it was closed in Ample Form at six o'clock P. M.

During the exercises at the laying of the corner-stone an historical address was given by the present historian, entitled "Masonry in Hokyoke."

At half past seven in the evening a dinner was served at the Nonotuck Hotel, which was attended by officers of the Grand Lodge and about three hundred and fifty members of the Craft. Addresses were made by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Arthur D. Prince, Ex-Mayor Avery, Mayor Cronin and Congressman Allen T. Treadway.

Sunday morning at 9:30 Masonic services were held in the Skinner Memorial Chapel. A fine address was given by Rt. Wor. Clarence A. Brodeur, Acting Grand Chaplain. After the service the Grand Lodge was taken in automobiles through surrounding towns, finally landing at the top of Mount Tom where an excellent lunch was served."

ONE of the important events in our history was the Dedication of the new Temple which was held on October 22, 1921 and conducted by the Grand Lodge under the Most Wor. Grand Master Arthur D. Prince. The Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form in the small Lodge-room at a quarter before two o'clock in the afternoon, and immediately proceeded under escort to the principal Lodge-room where it was received by the officers of Mount Tom Lodge under Wor. Master David Coutts. The Grand Officers then assumed their stations and the Temple was Dedicated with full form and ceremony in accordance with the ancient customs of the Craft. Very delightful music was furnished by the Mendelsohn Male Chorus of sixteen members, with organist and director, all members of the Craft.

The Dedicatory address was delivered by the Grand Master who warmly congratulated the Brethren on the success of their undertaking and impressed upon them the splendid opportunity and great responsibility coming with their new, beautiful and splendidly located Temple. This was followed by a reception to the Grand Officers and inspection of the Temple until six o'clock when a banquet was served by the ladies of the Eastern Star to about four hundred of the Brethren in the auditorium.

The first Visitation in the new Temple was on November 11, 1921, when Rt. Wor. A. A. Brooks, D. D. G. Master made his official visit. He and his suite were greeted by an assemblage of four hundred and eighty Masons who filled the Lodge-room to capacity.

75TH ANNIVERSARY

Our Seventy-Fifth Anniversary was observed in a very fitting manner under Wor. Master Stuart D. Coward with Rt. Wor. Robert Gillette as Chairman. The Lodge opened a Special Communication at 5:30 for the purpose of receiving the Grand Lodge Officers who were escorted into the Lodge by the Past and Present Masters. Rt. Wor. Curtis Chipman, Deputy Grand Master, was received as Acting Grand Master in the absence of Most Wor. Grand Master Dudley H. Ferrell who was visiting Lodges in South America. Following the meeting an informal reception was held for the Grand Lodge Officers during which Organist Thomas C. Auld gave an organ recital.

At the conclusion of the reception a banquet was held in the auditorium which was decorated with greenery, potted plants and ferns while the centerpiece of the stage was a large portrait of Wor. Samuel K. Hutchinson, the first Master of Mount Tom Lodge. One of the interesting events occurred just as Rt. Wor. Robert Gillette rose to introduce the Deputy Grand Master, when a bugler took his position at the rear of the auditorium and sounded a call. On this signal two members of the Lodge rolled a table into the room upon which had been placed a huge birthday cake adorned with seventy-two lighted candles. At the apex of the cake were three unlighted candles which the present historian designated the Past, Present and Future, and called upon Bro. Robert T. Prentiss, the oldest Mason present to light the Past. Wor. Bro. Stuart D. Coward the Master was then called upon to light the Present and Bro. James G. Sinclair, one of the youngest members, to light the Future. The Secretary then called the roll of the twenty-five living Past Masters and of this number thirteen responded. The celebration was climaxed with an Anniversary Ball which was held at the Hotel Nonotuck.

Throughout the entire program one significant fact was the note of prophecy for the future, the feeling that the past alone did not suffice, but that the Seventy-Fifth Birthday of the Lodge merely stood as one of many milestones and that the same obligations which have actuated the Masters and members of the Lodge in the past must be the motive which will serve as a guide to the Lodge during the years to come.

AT the Official Visitation of Rt. Wor. A. Anderson Mackimmie on October 14, 1927, the first presentation of Fifty-Year Medals was made. The recipients were Bros. David H. Lowe and Alvah Oldershaw. Medals were also provided for Bros. Joshua H. Fraser, Charles C. Jenks, Leon M. Mosher, Marden W. Prentiss and William A. Prentiss, who were unable to be present.

The Eighty-Fifth Anniversary of the Lodge was celebrated April 25, 1935, in a less pretentious manner than the Seventy-Fifth but nevertheless befitting the occasion. We were honored by the presence

of the Most Wor. Grand Master Claude L. Allen and his suite who participated in honoring a group of fifty-year members. Bros. William J. Crosier, William Henderson and John Leishmann were presented their Fifty-Year Medals and R. W. David Glassford was instructed to present similar medals to Bros. William S. Beeching, George W. Collins and George R. Stalker who were unable to be with us that evening.

Again on May 26, 1939, in the presence of Most Wor. Grand Master Joseph L. Perry and 237 Brethren, the Lodge was pleased to honor its members of fifty years. On that date Fifty-Year Medals were presented to R. Wor. Archibald A. Brooks, Bro. John Thomson and Bro. George P. Rice. Similar Medals were also awarded to Bros. Edmund J. Crowther, Frank L. Haskell, Addison L. Green and Frederick F. Celce who were unable to be present.

During the 1930's the heavy hand of the great depression was felt by industries and business throughout the land and its consequent results reached into fraternal organizations of which Mount Tom Lodge was no exception. As a result applications fell off and the finances were affected accordingly. Retrenchment was necessary in order to live within our income.

90TH ANNIVERSARY

Our Ninetieth Anniversary was observed on March 15, 1940, with a dinner and entertainment to which the wives of the members were invited. The dinner was served in the auditorium during which an orchestra furnished music. A dancing exhibition was given by the pupils of the Walker Dancing School, followed by community singing in which fancy caps and balloons were used which added to the gaiety of the occasion.

At eight o'clock all repaired to the Lodge-room where Rt. Wor. Ronald Astley, D. D. G. Master was received after which he introduced his suite of seventy members. A musical program followed in which Bro. Thomas C. Auld gave an excellent organ recital and Bro. James Scott rendered several vocal selections. The Westinghouse Square Club also entertained with a number of pleasing selections. The speakers of the evening were the Very Rev. Bro. Percy T. Edrop, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield and Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge and Wor. Bro. Raymond C. Cowing, P. M. of Mount Moriah Lodge of Westfield. Your present Historian gave a sketch of the history of the Lodge which was followed by talks of Rt. Wors. Ronald Astley and Edwin L. Davis.

1600 YEARS OF MASONRY

A unique event occurred on the evening of June 1, 1940, which was designated "Sixteen Hundred Years of Masonry". The Lodge opened with an attendance of three hundred and twenty-five members and then

repaired to the auditorium where a fine dinner was served with the added pleasure of orchestral music. Following the dinner the Lodge reconvened and the D. D. G. Master Ronald Astley stated the reason for the evening's designation was the fact that the total ages of the twenty Brothers participating in the work equaled 1603 years, an average age of over eighty years. One member of the group was ninety three years of age, seven were over eighty and nine over seventy. The occasion was graced by the presence of Most Wor. Herbert W. Dean, Past Grand Master; Rt. Wor. Roy Perry Miles, Senior Grand Warden and other distinguished Masons.

WORLD WAR II

In 1939 the General Westover Air Base was established and it was not long before we received visits from Brothers in the Air Force who were stationed there. These visits continued to grow and developed into very cordial relations. From time to time applications were received from members of the Air Force who desired to become members of the Fraternity. As a result the Lodge now numbers among its membership a fair sized group from the Air Base. Many of the Masons at the Air Base hold membership in Lodges throughout the United States and these as well as local members formed the General Westover Square Club in 1941 for social and fraternal fellowship. Its degree team has taken part in the work in many of the local and nearby Lodges and is noted for the excellence and sincerity of its work.

ON December 7, 1941, the Japanese struck their sudden and infamous blow at Pearl Harbor and on the following day we declared war against them. Three days later we were at war with Germany and Italy, and the world conflagration had begun. Our Government rushed plans for building up its armaments and increasing its Armed Forces far beyond anything heretofore dreamed of. Every home and family, every industry and every activity felt the effects of the impending actions that followed. The youth of the nation was alert and preparing for its country's call and with the growing seriousness of the situation many were planning for the branch of the service they preferred. Throughout the next four years fraternal organizations saw their young men depart for training camps and fields across the land.

Mount Tom Lodge felt the effect of these departures, some never to return again alive. At home the older members assisted in the war effort in many ways. Volunteers from the Lodge joined the air patrol service as watchers at Scott Tower against air raids on a 6:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. tour. Others trained as air raid wardens to apprise our people should incendiary fires break out, while others joined the auxiliary fire force to assist the regular Fire Department if needed.

After four long years of anxiety it was with joyous feelings that we looked forward with hope to the early return of our Brothers.

On March 3, 1943 the Lodge received the pleasant announcement that Bro. George W. Collins had remembered it in his will to the extent of \$2000.

A resolution was adopted on October 1, 1943, in which was stated the high esteem of the Lodge for Bro. Walter P. Crosby who received his Master Mason Degree on January 19, 1883, shortly after his twenty-first birthday. Brother Crosby is still with us at the age of ninety and attends to his duties daily as Deputy Sheriff at the Hampden County Court House, being the oldest active deputy sheriff in the United States. He was made an Honorary Life Member, exempt from all dues.

The Lodge lost its second oldest member on September 5, 1947, when Bro. Michael Abraham Marks passed away at the age of eighty-eight. Bro. Marks had been a member of the Lodge for sixty-four years.

In the Fall of 1945 the Holyoke Masonic Association decided to organize a drive for the purpose of wiping out the mortgage on the Temple. Its first act was to request loans without interest from both Mount Tom and William Whiting Lodge to enable it to make an immediate payment prior to the drive. Our Lodge voted to grant a loan of \$3000 for that purpose with specific terms for its repayment. The drive which followed was a great success, exceeding the quota by \$7000. Today the Lodge meets in a Temple free from all external debt and which would cost at least a half million dollars to replace.

In November 1949, the Lodge was further remembered in the will of our late Bro. Robert E. Newcomb, who left a sizeable estate which upon the death of the beneficiaries named therein will be divided equally between Mount Tom and William Whiting Lodges.

The turning of the tide was first felt in 1942 and since then the Lodge has resumed its general growth year by year so that today it numbers over four hundred members.

PAST MASTERS

There are seventy-one Past Masters of whom thirty-three are living. The first three living are each over eighty. They average 85 years. The next six are over seventy and have an average of 73½ years.

In the early years, Masters used to serve two or three years but since 1909 no Master has served more than one year. At that time all the line officers agreed to serve but one year. That agreement was never broken and has been followed all these years since. It is felt this arrangement has made it possible to interest men in serving, for "getting to the chair" was considered by many as taking too long a time.



MOUNT TOM LODGE OFFICERS 1950

SEATED--left to right: Rt. Wor. Archibald A. Brooks, Treasurer; William J. Pead, Senior Warden; Wor. Robert H. Aitken, Master; John T. Henderson, Junior Warden; Rt. Wor. Robert Gillette, Secretary. STANDING--left to right: Edward S. Wilson, Junior Steward; Wor. John F. Foster, Chaplain; Craig P. Marshall, Inside Sentinel; Frederick O. Pampel, Senior Deacon; Stevenson T. Nelson, Organist; Elwin R. Kircher, Junior Deacon; Wilfred Reed, Tyler; Max Colestin Augsberger, Marshal; John D. Kallika, Senior Steward.



WOR. ROBERT H. AITKEN, PRESENT MASTER - 1950

LONGEVITY IN OFFICE

Most officers in the Lodge are, of course, advancing stations and in recent years particularly, have been held for one year, the officer moving up with the Worshipful Master's chair the objective.

Treasurer, Secretary, Tyler and Organist are stationary offices.

TREASURERS

Fifteen Treasurers have served the Lodge but only three have served during the last eighty years. George A. Bassett was elected in 1871 and served through 1900—30 years. Henry H. Smith served from 1901 to 1909—nine years. A. A. Brooks was elected Nov. 4, 1910 and is the present Treasurer. He has served forty years and is still going strong.

SECRETARIES

The Lodge has had thirty-two secretaries. The records for the hundred years are complete. While the penmanship has been good and not so good, none can be classed as really bad. Some records are hard to read but due more to the fading of the ink than to the really bad penmanship. The really long years in service are confined to three.

John E. Bronson was secretary from 1892 through 1909—eighteen years. Herbert G. Rose served three years then "went through the chairs" and later served nine years. Robert Gillette was elected Nov. 1, 1928 and has served twenty-two years.

TYLER

Most of the hundred years of Tyler has been covered by four officers whose combined service equaled eighty-three years.

Wor. N. W. Quint, a charter member, was appointed Nov. 16, 1859 and served until Nov. 2, 1895. He was in office thirty-six years. He died May 23, 1897.

Bro. Robert Lade was appointed Nov. 2, 1895 and served until Nov. 19, 1907—twelve years. He died June 7, 1911. He was janitor for several years. Wor. Lewis M. Richards was appointed Nov. 19, 1907 and was in office at the time of his death, Dec. 10, 1917.

Walter P. Crosby was appointed April 5, 1918 and served until Oct. 1, 1943—twenty-five years.

Our present Tyler, Wilfred Reed, was appointed Oct. 5, 1945 and we hope he will be with us for many years to come.

ORGANIST

Bro. Thomas C. Auld was appointed Nov. 30, 1906 and served until his death, Sept. 23, 1945—thirty-nine years. He was beyond doubt one of the outstanding organists in Western Massachusetts. It was an

inspiration to hear him play and his fame extended far beyond the confines of the city. He was the teacher of music in the public schools of South Hadley Falls and organist at various times in the leading churches in this vicinity.

UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES

SOME things have happened during the past one hundred years that have seldom if ever happened in any other Masonic Lodge in Massachusetts. They are unusual enough to merit special attention.

There are not too many instances of father, son, and grandson being at various times members of the same lodge. We know of no other case where all three have been Masters of the Lodge.

Charles C. Hunter served as Master in 1883, 1884 and 1885. In 1920 his son, Robert W. Hunter, was Master. In 1932 Allen S. Hunter and in 1933 Robert M. Hunter, both grandsons of Charles C. and sons of Robert W. were Masters of the Lodge.

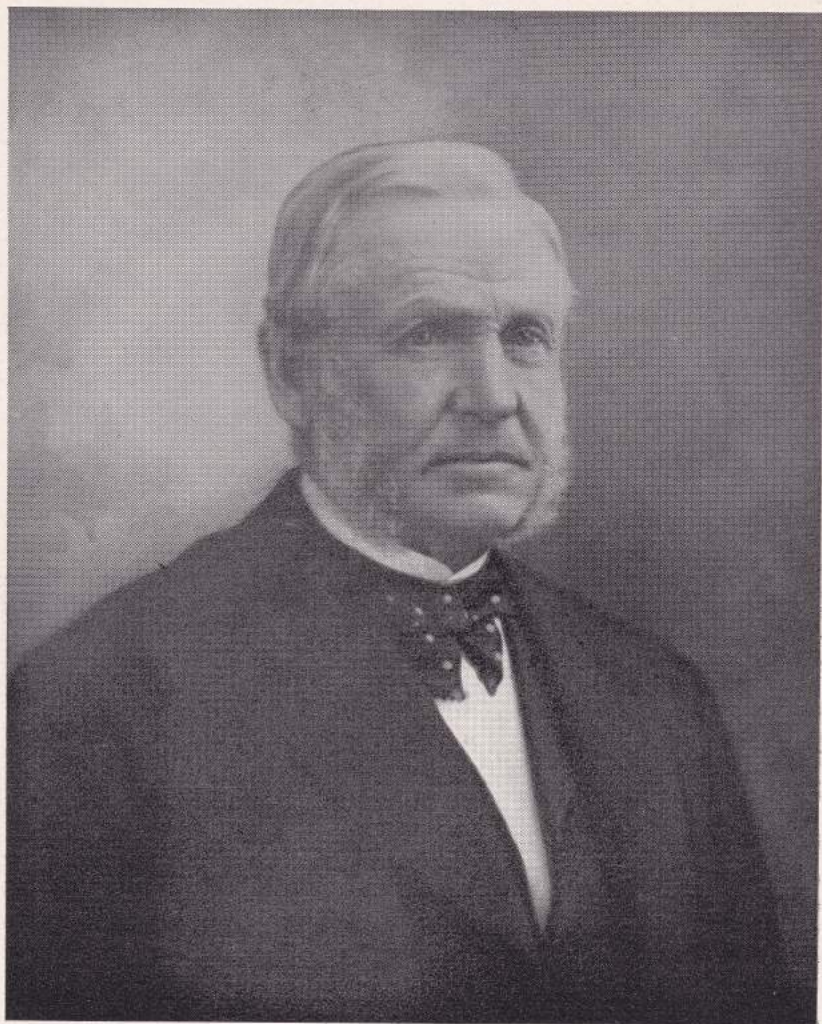
Rt. Wor. Robert Gillette and his son, Rt. Wor. Charles M. Gillette, are Past Masters of the same lodge, which is rather unusual, but most unusual—in fact the Grand Secretary says he knows of no similar instance in the history of Massachusetts Masonry—is the fact that they are both Past District Deputy Grand Masters of the same district. Both are still actively interested in the lodge.

There have been seven Bower brothers, members of the lodge, William, Finley, James, Thomas, David, Joseph and George.

When George was raised his six brothers were invited to fill the chairs and would have been allowed to occupy the East had Masonic law permitted. This occasion was Jan. 31, 1914. Wor. Bro. Goodwin, Past Master of Philharmonic Lodge of Marblehead, assisted in the work. It was a grand evening.

SAMUEL KNOX HUTCHINSON

The Brother most prominent in the formation of our Lodge was Samuel Knox Hutchinson who served as its first Worshipful Master. He was a mason and contractor from Lowell and engaged in the construction of the first mills in Holyoke. He was born in Pembroke, N. H., October 23, 1804 later going to Lowell where he learned his trade. He also received his Master Mason Degree in that city in 1826.



WOR. SAMUEL K. HUTCHINSON, FIRST MASTER - 1850-1851

After leaving Holyoke in 1852 he returned to Lowell and entered upon a long and brilliant Masonic career. He was a charter member and the first Worshipful Master of Ancient York Lodge and later presided as Commander of Massachusetts Consistory of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. He was Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1855. In 1863 he was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the 33d Degree and Honorary Member of the Supreme Council. R. W. Brother Hutchinson died August 1, 1877.

His son, Charles Carrol Hutchinson, a youth of eighteen when he left Holyoke and a student of Ireland Academy at the time, after a career as brilliant as his distinguished father's, was elected Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts for 1897, 1898 and 1899. During his term of office the present Temple was built.

WILLIAM B. C. PEARSONS

Right Worshipful Brother William B. C. Pearsons was one of the earliest members of our Lodge having been raised in 1850 and was the first Secretary under the Charter. He was the third Master and served in 1855, 1856, 1857 and 1862. He was eminently conspicuous in the political and social life of the Town and City and was the first Mayor of the City in 1874. For many years he presided as Judge in the local Police Court. His home was the center of many social activities and was located on the site of the Roger Smith Hotel.

WILLIAM GROVER

Worshipful Brother William Grover was an outstanding member of the Fraternity and served as Master in 1868 and 1869. In addition he was the first High Priest of Mount Holyoke Royal Arch Chapter under the Charter and held that office during 1866, 1867, 1868, 1871 and 1872. He was also the first Thrice Illustrious Master of Holyoke Council, Royal and Select Masters. He was an immense power for the upbuilding of the Order and was held in high esteem. The resolutions adopted at the time of his death in 1889 are indicative of that fact.

"Mount Tom Lodge desires to express its sincere affection and respect for one of its most prominent and efficient members, who has so freely given of his time, ability and means for the good of the Craft and the upbuilding of our Lodge."

"That we cherish the memory of our deeply lamented Brother in the light of his many Masonic virtues and that we emulate the high example of his life, character and sterling integrity; kind, courteous, affectionate, and sympathetic as a man and friend, conscientious and charitable as a Brother Mason, the Craft and this community loses an honored, faithful and beloved Brother and citizen."

Wor. Lewis M. Richards.

WOR. LEWIS M. RICHARDS

Lewis M. Richards became a Mason in 1873 and was Master of the Lodge in 1881 and 1882. He died in 1917. All through his forty-four years as a member of the Lodge he was prominent in its counsels, and for many years was called upon to install the officers as well as serve on important committees. He was active and untiring in Masonic affairs as long as he lived. A strong love for the Order and great ability in rendering its ritual when called upon to do so were among his qualities. In later life he served as Tyler for the period of November 19, 1907 until December 10, 1910, and acted as custodian of the Masonic Apartments. For many years he acted as Proxy to the Grand Lodge. He is well and favorably remembered by a few of the present old timers and the high esteem in which he was held is evidenced by the beautiful bronze memorial plaque set in the wall of the Lodge ante-room. He was in the earlier days, an always ready, reliable and faithful servant of the Lodge.

RT. WOR. ABRAHAM DAVIS

Abraham Davis joined Mount Tom in 1900 and served as Master in 1907 and 1908. He was the last Master to serve more than one year. He was a good Master. Energetic and assertive, he was forceful in his ways but served the interests of the Lodge well and introduced some unusual customs.

The year after he was Master he organized William Whiting Lodge and was its first Master, serving in 1909-10. In 1911-12 he served as D. D. Grand Master of the 16th District which at that time included both Mount Tom and William Whiting Lodges.

RT. WORSHIPFUL A. A. BROOKS

No history of Mount Tom Lodge would be complete without, at least, a brief sketch of Archie Brooks' wonderful Masonic service, not only to the Lodge but to Masonry in general.

Because of his long and intimate knowledge of the affairs of Mount Tom, he was unanimously chosen to write its history of one hundred years, as he was, twenty-five years ago, to record its outstanding events of the then seventy-five years of existence.

Archie is a very modest man and we know he would make no reference to himself so the General Committee has unanimously voted that this brief sketch be inserted as a part of the history of the Lodge.

Archibald Alexander Brooks was born in Sanquhar, Scotland, January 17, 1863. He made application to Mount Tom Lodge September 6, 1889. He was elected October 4, 1889. He received his Entered Apprentice Degree October 18, 1889. He was passed to Fellow Craft November 15, 1889 and on December 27, 1889 he was raised to the Sublime degree of Master Mason and enrolled a member of the Lodge.

Who could have predicted then what Masonry would mean to him or what he would mean to Masonry.

He was elected Master of the Lodge November 1, 1901, installed November 29, 1901 and served as such for two years and today is the Senior living Past Master of the Lodge.

He was District Deputy Grand Master of what is now the Holyoke 17th Masonic District in 1921 and 1922. He is one of the three in Mount Tom Lodge to have been presented by the Grand Lodge the Joseph Warren medal for distinctive Masonic service and he also received from the Grand Lodge the fifty-year medal on May 26, 1939. In 1929-34 he was Wor. Master of the old 31st Lodge of Instruction.

November 11, 1909 he was elected Treasurer of the Lodge and is now serving his 40th consecutive year as such.

His exemplary character, his love for Masonry and his devotion to his lodge have endeared him to friends and acquaintances alike. God has been good to spare him to us in all his activity all these years.

Mount Tom Lodge is proud of you, Right Worshipful Sir, and we know you are proud of Mount Tom Lodge.

RT. WOR. ROBERT GILLETTE

Robert Gillette joined Mount Tom Lodge in June, 1907. He was appointed Inside Sentinel in the fall and served as Master for the year 1914. When the Holyoke Masonic Association was formed, he was elected a director and had an active part in planning the new Temple. When it came time to lay the cornerstone, he was elected General Chairman and much of the credit for the statement that "this was the second largest Masonic affair ever held in Massachusetts, exceeded only by Bunker Hill Day in Boston", was due to his efforts.

Again in 1921 he was elected General Chairman for the dedication of the Temple, which was another outstanding day in Holyoke's Masonic history.

He organized Mount Nonotuck Lodge in 1920 and served as Master under the dispensation and was its first Master under the charter. It was as Master of Mount Nonotuck that he assisted in spreading the cement for the corner-stone.

In 1924-25 he was District Deputy Grand Master and in 1942 was presented a Joseph Warren medal by his son, Rt. Wor. Charles M. Gillette in behalf of the Grand Master.

He was elected secretary of the Lodge in 1928 and is still filling that office. He has given much time and service and his knowledge of the ritual, the by-laws of the Grand Lodge and general Masonic usage have proven valuable assistance in the conduct of the affairs of the Lodge.

He has been selected to act as General Chairman of the One Hundredth Anniversary.

WILLIAM A. PRENTISS

One of the most outstanding records of Masonic membership is held by Bro. William A. Prentiss, which merits special mention.

He was born on July 16, 1854 at East Bridgewater, Mass. and took his first degree in Mount Tom Lodge on Oct. 8, 1875 three months after reaching his twenty-first birthday. He received his Master Mason degree on March 13, 1876 when the Lodge was but twenty-six years old. In our Centennial Year, at the age of ninety-six, it is gratifying to still have him with us, with an unusual membership in our Lodge of seventy-four years.

God has been good to Bro. Prentiss. He has been blessed with good health and a keen intellect. He has led an exemplary life and during his business career was always held in high esteem. Incidentally his father, the late Bro. George W. Prentiss, became a member of the Lodge in 1865 and held membership until his death in 1915, a period of fifty years.

We wish Bro. Prentiss many more years of health and happiness.

JOHN W. TOOLE

In Holyoke on February 12th, 1882, there came into the world a little fellow whom the parents named John William. On June 27, 1913 he received his Master Mason degree in Mount Tom Lodge.

What is ordinarily considered a great affliction came to him in later years but the dimming of his eyes did not dim his undaunted courage nor dampen the eternal well-spring of good spirits and mirth which continually bubble forth.

We call him "Jack" because we love him so much and we love him if for no other reason than that we just can't help it. It is love, not prompted sympathy, for Jack is to be envied not sympathized with.

We see the physical outline of our brothers and know them by sight. Jack sees us through the mind and by our voice and through his intuition he knows us well. We almost envy him in his knowing of the Masons, not only of our local lodges but of the surrounding country-side. When we are lonely, downhearted or discouraged, Jack can cheer us up. When we feel life has not been very kind to us we think of Jack and are ashamed of ourselves. When we hear his stentorian voice, "All up for Mount Tom Lodge," we know that everything is well. And does he know the ritual, especially the lectures! Just ask the Past Deputies, or the Past Masters, or the regular members. They will all tell you to ask our one and only one, ordinary, grand or super-grand lecturer Jack and he will give you the right answers.

He is a life member of Mount Tom and one of the three whom the Grand Master has seen fit to honor with the Joseph Warren Medal and no breast is more worthy of wearing it.

God bless you, Jack, for your wonderful way of living and the inspiration you have been to us all. May the blessing of Heaven rest upon you and be with you always, even unto the end of the world.

WILFRED REED

One man may be able by a stroke of the pen to sign a check giving largely to a Masonic project, another may, by his silver-tongued oratory hold an audience spell-bound while he extolls the principles of Masonry and the wonderful teachings of our ritual which, referring to Relief, says "to soothe the unhappy, sympathize with their misfortunes, compassionate their miseries, and restore peace to their troubled minds, is the grand aim we have in view." A Mason who can do this is, indeed, a Mason. Such a man is Wilfred Reed who, though quite advanced in years and without transportation other than his own good legs, travels the length and breadth of the community, calling on the sick, the aged and the shut-ins, giving them a hearty handshake, a word of kindly greeting and making them feel they are not entirely forgotten by at least one of their Masonic brothers. Some day the Grand Lodge may cause to be cast a medal to be bestowed upon such a Mason. A medal more precious than any thus far bestowed for surely such service is rare. Any lodge that has such a member is to be congratulated.

Wilfred Reed is a valued member of our Lodge and we are not unappreciative of his wonderful service.

AND thus endeth a century of Mount Tom Lodge, which from its small beginnings, through its trials and vicissitudes, has brought forth men of untiring effort, unselfish devotion and endless zeal, so that today it stands as an organization of which we all are immensely proud.

Our leading citizens in business life and the professions and artisans as well, have been honored through the years by being embraced in its membership and in turn reflected honor on the Fraternity.

"For yesterday is but a Dream
And tomorrow only a Vision
But Today
Well lived, makes every Yesterday
A Dream of Happiness,
And every Tomorrow a Vision of Hope
Look well therefore
To this Day."

The history of the past hundred years has been a period of increasing prosperity with gradual but sound growth. The high standard of efficiency set by our forefathers has been faithfully maintained. And so down through the years our Fraternity has carried out the duties and obligations imposed by our Charter, meeting regularly in harmonious fellowship; not unmindful of the call of want, and never turning a deaf ear to the wail of sorrow. Sufferers from fire, flood or earthquake have been generously aided and many charitable acts have never been a matter of record.

Today, as we stand at the threshold of a new century in our Masonic history, it is well, perhaps, that we look backward across the gulf of time and recall the merits and honor the memory of the Brethren who founded, carried on, and handed down the glorious heritage which is ours. By so doing we shall be enabled to catch some inspiration which may be an incentive to emulate their noble and sterling qualities and so, long after we of the present generation shall have passed on through life, some may rise up to bless the hearts and hands that founded and carried on our organization.

As one of the most exalted desires of man is for light, may the light of Freemasonry continue to shine through the ages,—physical light to guide the body, intellectual light to guide the mind and spiritual light to guide the soul.

Excerpts from the Records with Annotations

In presenting the following excerpts from the records, no attempt has been made to elaborate the written words of the then secretary, but to simply state what at that particular time took place, with an occasional annotation of what bearing the action then taken may have had on the Lodge years after as seen from present day observations.

No reference is made to the names or prominence of applicants, results of ballot or number joining in any particular year. It may be stated in passing, however, that the largest number accepted for membership in any one year was ninety-three, while there was one year not a single application for degrees was received.

In the "Historical Sketch" section a more detailed and a more interesting citation of various phases of our life and doings will be found, and the prominence that came to some of our members, masonically or otherwise, is noted.

The excerpts from the records begin with the first recorded meeting. April 5, 1850. Preliminary meetings must have been held but are not recorded in the secretary's record book.

MOUNT TOM LODGE, A. F. & A. M. 100TH ANNIVERSARY

- April 5, 1850 "Mount Tom Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons met in their Hall, opened on the 1st Degree of Masonry. Present" . . . Then followed the names of the various officers, the receiving of petitions etc. and is fully quoted in the Historical Sketch.
- June 7, 1850 Code of By-laws adopted. Candidates elected for each degree.
- Dec. 6, 1850 Up to this day under the dispensation \$157.00 had been received and \$156.86 spent leaving a balance of 14 cents. Request for charter made. Also requested the Holyoke Lodge I.O.O.F., to furnish the lodge with lights as "the suspended lamps this evening went out entirely."
- Jan. 9, 1851 Lodge constituted and S. K. Hutchinson installed Master.
- Sept. 3, 1852 "Met in Chapin Bldg., High St., adjoining the hall lately occupied by the lodge, that having been burned since our last communication. Committee appointed to procure regalia and jewels, to engage a hall for the use of the Lodge and to hire money for the purchase of the necessary articles for the use of this Lodge, the amount not to exceed One Hundred and twenty-five dollars."
- Nov. 5, 1852 Stated communication in new hall in Colby's Block, High St.
- Dec. 1, 1854 "Voted to purchase all the furniture and fixtures in this hall of Bro. N. W. Quint, lately owned by the Odd Fellows and the lease of the hall."
- June 1, 1855 "Voted that the Standing Committee be authorized to let the hall to the Odd Fellows for holding their meetings and also to the Unitarian Society for divine services."
- Sept. 6, 1855 "Voted to have the By-laws of the Lodge printed at a cost not to exceed \$12.00."
- Aug. 11, 1857 "Lodge convened for the purpose of meeting the M. W. Grand Master of Masons in Mass., John T. Heard." The records list 23 members of the Lodge and six by name from Jerusalem Lodge of Northampton as present.
- Nov. 5, 1858 Treasurer's Annual Report shows "Received \$413.94; Paid \$409.76; Balance \$4.18. Money due the Lodge \$87.35; Total assets \$91.53; Liabilities \$7.67; Cash & Debits \$83.86."
- March 9, 1860 W. B. C. Pearson signs as D. D. G. M. 10th Dist. Again 6/22/60; Again 8/17/60.
- Sept. 6, 1861 "Bro. J. S. Davis has tendered as a free gift a certain burial lot in Forestdale Cemetery known as Mount Moriah and numbered 350 on plan of said Cemetery." Then followed a resolution of acceptance and appreciation of the gift.
- Sept. 4, 1863 "Voted to pay one hundred dollars a year rent if proprietor would paint and paper the hall and give the Lodge a lease of it for a term of five years."

- Nov. 4, 1864 "Voted that the Secretary be paid 50 cents for each meeting of the Lodge."
- May 5, 1865 "As a mark of respect for our late President Lincoln, it was voted that the hall be draped in mourning for thirty days."
- Feb. 2, 1866 William Whiting elected to receive degrees.
- March 5, 1869 "It was unanimously voted that we grant the request of the Brothers of So. Hadley Falls for our permission to establish a Lodge of F. & A. M. in that place and recommend that the Prayer of the Petitioners be granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master as prayed for."
- Dec. 1, 1871 "Voted that the vote whereby spittoons were ejected from the Lodge room be reconsidered and that the Tyler be instructed to furnish the necessary number for the same."
- June 5, 1874 "Voted to accept the proposition of R. F. Craft to the Fraternity to lease a hall in the building about to be erected by him."
- Aug. 7, 1874 "On motion the whole matter of a new hall was indefinitely postponed."
- Nov. 3, 1876 Voted that Special Communications be called hereafter through the Wednesdays *Transcript* and not send notices to the Brethren as heretofore.
- July 5, 1878 Voted not to confer any more degrees until after the regular Communication in Sept.
- Nov. 7, 1879 Voted to accept plans submitted by Bro. Wm. Grover for change in Hall and rooms rented by Lodge.
The first listing of an Organist as an officer of the Lodge appears in the records of this meeting. He was Bro. Wm. Haney. The Treasurer G. S. Bassett had apparently acted as organist for there are previous records showing varying sums of money voted to him as organist.
- Nov. 7, 1879 Voted to take a lease of this Hall for five years from Jan. 1/79 at an annual rental of \$400 provided the above mentioned plans are carried out.
- March 12, 1880 "Special Communication at 7:30 P.M. opened on M. M. Degree. Then called from labor to refreshment for Installation and Dedication of new Hall. Ladies and visitors then admitted." This was evidently an unusual occasion. Officers were installed. A mixed quartette rendered several selections. P. D. D. W. Master S. B. Spooner was the installing officer. The audience joined in singing Auld Lang Syne. "Lodge with guests were then invited to repair to the Windsor where a banquet had been prepared."
- Feb. 4, 1881 Voted that the new by-laws when printed be bound in paper covers and that three hundred copies be printed.

- May 6, 1881 "Voted that each member of Mt. Tom Lodge be assessed one dollar for the purpose of creating a Sick Fund and that the money be paid to the Secretary within 30 days. Said money to be used only for the care of sick brethren."
- Dec. 1, 1882 "M. W. G. Master Samuel C. Lawrence and suite being in waiting was received in the usual manner." "He assumed the Master's Chair and addressed the Lodge on the subject of commutation. He first read all about the building of the Temple in Boston. The lodge voted unanimously to assume and pay the capitation tax of June 11th, 1879 for all its members who have not individually commuted it and that the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to borrow money sufficient for that purpose and give the note or notes of the Lodge therefor at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent per annum." "Voted the tax so assessed is hereby assessed upon the present un-commuted and future members of the Lodge, payable in equal annual installments of one dollar per year until 1894 inclusive."
- Dec. 15, 1882 Installation of officers. Past Master's jewel presented to the retiring Master also to one who had served in 1868 & 9. First reference to such a presentation.
- Feb. 1, 1884 Voted that future initiates be presented with a lamb skin apron.
- May 2, 1884 Voted an assessment of \$1.00 be levied upon each member for the purpose of replenishing the Sick Fund.
- May 7, 1886 Voted an assessment of \$1.00 per capita be raised for a fund for the sick.
- May 6, 1887 "Voted that the Lodge accept with gratitude the gift of a set of officers aprons from the Mount Tom Social Club."
- Nov. 16, 1888 The retiring Master was presented with "an elegant gold watch, chain and charm as an expression of the affection and esteem of Mount Tom Lodge toward the retiring Master."
It seems to have become the custom now to present a Past Master's Jewel or a watch and chain or some outstanding memento to the retiring Master and as this is written with the knowledge of sixty years of later procedure it can be said here that the custom still prevails but it is always now a Past Master's Jewel.
- April 5, 1889 The Wor. Master called attention to existing rules regarding smoking in the Lodge room, also to loud whispering during the work and the giving of proper salutations on entering or leaving the room during the session of the Lodge.
- April 4, 1890 The first record of bills being read by the Secretary and voted to be paid after approval by the Finance Committee.
- Nov. 2, 1895 Committee appointed to procure new furniture and furnishings for the new lodge quarters in the Hubbard and Taber Bldg. Committee appointed to solicit funds to pay for furnishings.

- Dec. 16, 1895 Special meeting "to take such action on opening the new Masonic Apartments in Hubbard and Taber new block as the members thought best."
"Voted that the new apartments be suitably dedicated on the evening of Dec. 27, 1895."
- Dec. 27, 1895 "Special Communication held, all officers present and 359 other Brothers, opened on degree of M. M. at 7:30 P. M."
Thus opens the records of this glorious evening and wonderful occasion, it being the dedication of the new quarters of the Lodge which was to prove the home of Holyoke Masonry until our beautiful new Temple, was to be dedicated and occupied in the year 1921.
It was a large and distinguished gathering. After the dedicatory services the District Grand Master resigned the East and Gavel to Wor. Eli W. Beech, Master of the Lodge, who, with the officers of the Lodge proceeded to confer the sublime degree of Master Mason upon two Brother Fellow Crafts, they being duly qualified and in waiting. The Lodge then closed in form. The brethren repaired to the banquet hall and then returned to the Lodge rooms for interesting speeches. The closing paragraph written by the then Secretary reads as follows: "The Grand Officers having to leave on special car for Springfield at 12, the assembly closed that the brethren could return to their several places of abode to enjoy the hours set apart for refreshment and sleep."
- Jan. 3, 1896 Ten motions relating to the new quarters were carried at this meeting. One of particular interest read "Voted that now, henceforth and for ever more there shall be no smoking on the upper floor of the Masonic apartments Lodge meeting nights." The Secretary used six pages to record all the transactions of this meeting.
- Feb. 7, 1896 Committee reported they had been given a ten year lease on the 3rd and 4th floors of the new quarters at a rental of \$850.00 per annum. The amendment to raise the dues from two to three dollars annually was adopted.
- Feb. 4, 1898 "Voted the Finance Committee be empowered to obtain the services of a quartette for such occasions as committee may think proper the amount to be paid not to exceed \$1.00 each per meeting."
- May 27, 1898 Special Communication. Attendance 210. Work M. M. degree on one candidate. Large delegations from Doric Lodge, Thompsonville, Conn. and Ionic Lodge of Easthampton. Records conclude "at which time (11:15 P.M.) most of the members repaired to their several places of abode there, we trust, to enjoy the remaining hours of the night in refreshing sleep and rest."
- Jan. 21, 1900 A special Communication was held at 2-15 P.M. with an attendance of 200 for the purpose of conducting the funeral services of Bro. George Sherman Bassett who had served the Lodge as Treasurer for 30 years. His remains arrived in the lodge room at 3 o'clock, at 3:30 the services was announced. The records say "after the friends and Brothers had

viewed the pleasant face of our deceased brother a procession was formed and escorted the remains to Forestdale Cemetery where they were laid away with full Masonic honors in accordance with his request and we trust he is now receiving his reward of the eternal rest in the Grand Lodge above which he has so well earned."

- March 7, 1902 Voted to purchase one pool and one billiard table and to adopt a set of rules to govern the use of the tables.
- April 4, 1902 Voted to accept the pool and billiard tables as a gift from the Chapter.
- July 22, 1902 Recommended "that bills against the Lodge be read before the Lodge at the stated meetings." This was a radical departure from the old way but is still the procedure of the Lodge.
- April 24, 1903 The Master Masons degree was conferred upon two Bro. Fellow Crafts by the Past Masters of the Lodge. This is believed to have been the first Past Masters Night and from the records was a very interesting meeting with an attendance stated as two hundred.
- Oct. 10, 1903 Special Communication called for 2:10 P.M. Attendance 150. This was for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the St. Pauls Episcopal Church. A procession was formed and under escort of Springfield Commandery, K. T. and accompanied by other lodges of the 16th District (there being about 350 in line) proceeded to the site and suitably laid the corner stone in due and ancient form.
- Nov. 4, 1904 "Voted that Mount Tom Lodge extend to Mt. Holyoke Royal Arch Chapter a unanimous vote of thanks for the most generous gift by the cancelling of the \$800.00 note which she held against Mount Tom Lodge."
- Nov. 2, 1906 The Secretary's and Treasurer's annual reports were spread upon the records for the first time. The Secretary's report showed number joined during year also deaths, demits, etc. and net membership, also moneys received from various sources and payments to the Treasurer. The Treasurer's report showed receipts and expenditures and balance on hand.
- Nov. 3, 1906 Special Communication at 1:40 P.M. to attend the funeral of Wor. Bro. Charles Crawford Hunter who had been raised to the Sublime Degree Jan. 22, 1875. Little was it known at that time that his son, Robert W. Hunter, would be Master of the Lodge in 1920 or that this honor would come to his grandsons Allen S. and Robert M. in 1932 and 1933 respectively.
- May 3, 1907 Wor. Bro. Wilbur H. Stedman appointed instructor of Masonic Lectures.

MOUNT TOM LODGE, A. F. & A. M. 100TH ANNIVERSARY

- Nov. 6, 1908 "Voted a committee be appointed to look into the matter of purchasing a building lot and obtain prices of same suitable for erecting a Masonic Building on."
- Jan. 1, 1909 Petition received asking permission to apply for a dispensation from the M. W. Grand Lodge to form a new lodge to be located in the city of Holyoke, Mass. was granted. After events prove this to have been the petition for Wm. Whiting Lodge.
Voted to tender to the petitioners of the new lodge the use of Masonic Hall for their preliminary meetings.
- March 5, 1909 Voted that the committee on Library be authorized to proceed and fit up said library room, the cost not to exceed \$200.00.
- March 15, 1910 "Wor. Bro. Louis Strauss furnished the fraternity with a very pleasant social and entertainment as a memorial of the 60th anniversary of the constitution of Mount Tom Lodge, Mar. 14, 1850, consisting of addresses by R. Wor. C. A. Brodeur Sr. Grand Warden, and Bro. N. P. Avery our much honored mayor . . ."
- Sept. 2, 1910 A communication from Holyoke Masonic Assn. was read by the Wor. Master setting forth a proposition to purchase the James H. Newton property on Chestnut St. providing the required amount should be donated by the fraternity.
- Sept. 1, 1911 Amendment to by-laws taking from Finance Committee the requirement of auditing the books of Sec-Treas., Trustees, and that an auditing committee of three be elected by ballot at the regular annual meeting etc. was adopted.
- Oct. 6, 1911 The Most Wor. J. Albert Blake spoke in detail on the Masonic Home at an open session when brethren from the several lodges of the district were present.
- Nov. 10, 1911 Visitation of R. Wor. Abraham Davis, D. D. G. Master of the 17th Masonic District.
- Feb. 2, 1912 By-laws amended to make fees \$50.00, dues \$5.00, Life Membership \$75.00, exempt from dues after having paid dues for 40 years. Building Fund. The following motion was made, seconded and carried:—The Treasurer shall pay monthly into the hands of the Trustees, fifteen dollars for every candidate who has received the Master Masons degree. He shall also pay into the hands of the Trustees at the end of the Masonic year, two-fifths of all the money received for dues. This money shall be known as the Building Fund. The Trustees shall at the annual meeting submit a statement showing in detail balance on hand one year previous, amount received and disbursed during preceding year and balance on hand to date. Any portion of the Building Fund may be disbursed to purchase stock in the Holyoke Masonic Building Assn. by a majority vote of the members present and voting, notice of each vote having been mailed to each member at least two

weeks before the meeting. The Trustees' warrant for payment shall be a copy of such vote signed by the Secretary and Master." Attendance at this meeting was 161.

- April 5, 1912 "Voted that committees' reports be attached to the applications and both read previous to ballot." This has been done ever since and gives members present a re-reading of the application with its detail of information which the member may not have remembered from the previous month or more before, or he may not have been present when application was first read.
- July 5, 1912 Voted that 100 Shares of Holyoke Masonic Assn. stock be purchased for \$1,000.00.
- June 5, 1914 Purchased 150 shares Holyoke Masonic Assn. stock \$1500.00.
- Nov. 5, 1916 Purchased 50 shares Holyoke Masonic Assn. stock \$500.00.
- March 23, 1918 Special communication called at 2:30 P.M. Attendance 345. "The Lodge having opened the W. Master announced the purpose was to attend the funeral of Bro. Daniel J. Gallivan of Hancock Lodge No. 311, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. After the lodge service the brethren formed a procession and marched to Forestdale Cemetery where the remains of our late brother were deposited with full Masonic Honors in the Masonic lot. A firing squad from the military attended and fired a salute over the grave." A footnote reads, "The above brother was thrice buried, once in Fort George Wright, Wash. Then in Holyoke where his body was brought at the request of an aunt, but on finding he was a Mason (the apron on the body), the Priest refused to recognize so his remains were left for the Potters Field. Then by Mount Tom Lodge as above."
- April 5, 1918 As a result of the death of Wor. Bro. Lewis M. Richard there were vacancies in the roster of officers to be filled and Wor. Bro. J. E. Bronson was elected a Trustee, Wor. Bro. A. A. Brooks as Proxy to the Grand Lodge and Walter P. Crosby as Tyler.
- Feb. 6, 1920 Twelve Master Masons, with Wor. Bro. Robert Gillette as head of the petitioners asked the approval of the Lodge for a dispensation to form a new lodge in Holyoke. Upon vote of the Lodge the petition was approved. This petition was for Mount Nonotuck Lodge of which Wor. Brother Robert Gillette became the first Master.
- Sept. 11, 1920 Laying the Corner Stone of the New Temple.
The following is copied verbatim from the records of the Lodge: "A special communication was held in Masonic Hall Sept. 11, 1920 and opened on the degree of M. M. at 1:40 P. M. Attendance at opening 160. This special communication was called for the purpose of attending the laying of the Corner Stone of our new Temple. After the Lodge had been opened in due form, and the dispensation authorizing us to form in public procession read, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Arthur D. Prince was escorted into the Lodge and introduced

by Wor. Bro. George Barnett. Acknowledging most feelingly the hearty welcome extended by Wor. Master Robert W. Hunter, he assumed the East. A procession was formed and we repaired to Elm Street where we were joined by three hundred and fifty more members. Taking our position in the parade, in which 4200 Masons participated representing Lodges from all the surrounding cities and towns, proceeded to the Temple where the impressive ceremonies of the laying of the Corner Stone were conducted by the Grand Officers. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the brethren repaired to the Second Baptist Church where refreshments were served. Returning at 5:45 the Lodge was closed in form. About five hundred Masons attended the banquet at Hotel Nonotuck in the evening in honor of the Most Wor. Grand Master and officers." The events of this day were not, of course, exclusively Mount Tom's but belonged to all of Holyoke Masonry for all bodies had contributed interest, time and money to this, the realization of the dream of years and a more complete description of the doings of this eventful day is given elsewhere as copied from the Records of the Grand Lodge.

Nov. 5, 1920 Voted that the \$1000.00 note given by the Masonic Bldg. Ass'n. for the Lodge furniture when the Association took over the management of the Lodge rooms be exchanged for stock of the said Association if agreeable to the Directors.

Dec. 3, 1920 Voted to buy additional stock in the Holyoke Masonic Assn. to the full amount now in the Building Fund.

Aug. 5, 1921 The first regular communication of Mt. Tom was held in the auditorium of the new Temple. The Lodge rooms were not completed and could not be used.

Oct. 22, 1921 Dedication of new Temple.
Special Communication at 2:40 P.M. Attendance 485. The following is taken from the records:

"The Wor. Master appointed Wor. Bro. D. W. Williamson, Bros. Eugene Chapman and Willis M. Fleming (building committee), Wor. Bros. J. E. Bronson, R. H. Morrill, Robert Gillette and Chas. H. Smith as a committee to escort Most Worshipful Arthur D. Prince and suite into the Lodge Room. After a hearty welcome by Wor. Master David Coutts, the Grand Master assumed the East and the Grand Officers their respective stations as follows:- R. W. Claude L. Allen, Dep. Master; R. W. Frank E. Swain, Sr. G. W.; R. W. William Ridings, Jr. G. W.; R. W. Chas. H. Ramsay, G. Treas.; R. W. Fred'k. W. Hamilton, G. Sec'y.; Rev. Edw. A. Horton, G. Chap.; R. W. Frank W. Dobson, G. Mar."

"The Temple was then dedicated by the Most Worshipful Grand Master and officers in due and ancient form which was most impressive."

"At the conclusion of the dedication exercises, the Brethren greatly enjoyed an address by the M. W. Gr. Master, followed by most interesting remarks by D. G. M. Claude L. Allen, R. W. Fred'k. W. Hamilton and the Grand Chaplain, Rev. Bro. Edwin A. Horton."

"A reception to the Grand Officers and inspection of the Temple consumed the time until six o'clock, when a banquet was served by the Ladies of the Eastern Star to about four hundred of the Brethren, in the auditorium, followed by speeches from several of the Grand Officers."

- Nov. 4, 1921 Voted that "the Building Fund be discontinued as the Temple is now a reality and there being no further use of such a fund." The Treasurer's report at this time (the annual meeting) shows the Lodge with an investment of \$14,290.00 in stock of the Association.
- Nov. 11, 1921 Rt. Wor. A. A. Brooks, D. D. G. Master made his Official Visit. The attendance was given as 480. The attendance figure shows how much the members appreciated this honor having been bestowed upon one of its members and how deep a place brother Brooks had come to hold in their hearts.
- Nov. 17, 1923 Rt. Wor. I. W. Davis, D. D. G. Master, a life member of Mount Tom and Past Master of William Whiting Lodge, made his official Visitation to Mount Tom Lodge. The attendance was recorded as 212.
- Jan. 4, 1924 The Christmas Committee reported \$594.93 was collected and Christmas Cheer amounting to \$404.50 was distributed among the many Masons and families. It was voted that such a committee be a permanent one to act in conjunction with William Whiting and Mount Nonotuck Lodges.
- June 2, 1925 "Rt. Wor. Bro. Brooks escorted into the Lodge our newly appointed District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Bro. Robert Gillette who was welcomed by Wor. Master Coward and received in the East. Rt. Wor. Bro. Gillette gratefully acknowledged the greeting and addressed a few well chosen remarks to the Lodge."
- Feb. 6, 1925 Lodge voted to spend up to \$300 for expenses incident to celebration of Seventy-fifth Anniversary.
- March 14, 1925 75th Anniversary
Special communication opened at 5:30 on Master Masons Degree. Attendance at opening, 128. The W. Master appointed all Past and Present Masters, with R. W. Robert Gillette as chairman, as a committee to escort the Grand Officers into the Lodge. After the usual introductions, the Master resigned the East and gavel to Rt. Wor. Chipmann, Dep. Gr. Master. Most Worshipful Dudley H. Farrell, Grand Master, was unable to be present as he was visiting the lodges in the Canal Zone and Chili. The Wor. Master Stuart D. Coward resumed the East, then followed an organ recital by Bro. Thomas C. Auld, followed by a display of the lights and a reception to the Grand Officers. We then repaired to the auditorium where an elaborate banquet was served to 250 brethren. At the conclusion of the banquet a huge birthday cake was brought from the kitchen. It was surrounded by seventy-two lighted candles. At the apex of the cake were three unlighted

candles which R. W. Bro. Brooks announced designated the Past, Present and Future, and he called upon Bro. R. T. Prentiss, the oldest Mason present to light the Past; Wor. Master Coward to light the Present; and Bro. James G. Sinclair, one of our youngest members to light the Future. Wor. Master Coward introduced the toastmaster of the evening, R. W. Bro. Robert Gillette, who in turn called upon the Grand Officers.

During the banquet an orchestra furnished music and between the addresses a quartette rendered many fine selections. On Friday evening an "Anniversary Ball" was held at the Hotel Nonotuck and a banquet fittingly climaxed the Seventy-fifth celebration. The secretary's record closes, "To our posterity we extend the sincere hope that the Centennial may be as fitting and enjoyable to them as the Seventy-fifth has been to us."

A footnote to the records reads, see "Grand Lodge Proceedings."

Sept. 11, 1920, Page 280 for Laying of Corner Stone

Oct. 22, 1921, Page 298 for Dedication of Temple

Mar. 14, 1925, Page 96 for Record of above Anniversary

- Oct. 30, 1925 Rt. Wor. Robert Gillette, D. D. G. Master of the Sixteenth Masonic Dist. and Past Master of Mount Tom made his official visit.
- Nov. 27, 1925 Rt. Wor. Robert Gillette installed the officers for the ensuing year.
- Oct. 14, 1927 At the Official Visitation Rt. Wor. A. Anderson Mackimmie presented to David H. Lowe and Alvah Oldershaw, Fifty Year Medals which are now granted by the Grand Lodge to Masons of fifty years' standing. He also had medals for Bros. Joshua H. Fraser, Charles C. Jenks, Leon M. Mosher, Marden W. Prentiss and William A. Prentiss who were unable to be present.
- Nov. 2, 1928 Rt. Wor. Robert Gillette elected Secretary.
- May 27, 1932 The D. D. G. Master Hubert M. Canning paid a Fraternal Visit to the Lodge. He was accompanied by a group of Past Deputies who were to confer the Master Mason degree. Nine Past Deputies took part in the work and acquitted themselves in a very satisfactory manner.
- Feb. 3, 1933 Rt. Wor. Bro. James G. Sinclair, Past Master of Mount Tom Lodge and the newly appointed D.D.G. Master was received. He assumed the East and later gave an interesting talk.
- July 7, 1933 The Wor. Master and Rt. Wor. Bro. Brooks told about the Two Hundredth Anniversary celebration in Boston and reported it a very enjoyable and instructive affair.
- April 25, 1935 85th Anniversary.
Lodge was opened at 5:30 P. M. attendance 208. The Craft repaired to the auditorium where a banquet was served to 130 Masons. After the dinner the Wor. Master introduced R. W. Robert Gillette as

toastmaster who after stating the occasion was not only the 85th birthday party, but was for the purpose of paying homage to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Claude L. Allen, and his suite and also to honor certain members of the Lodge who had been members for fifty years. The Past Masters of the Lodge were introduced also the veterans and members of the Grand Lodge, after which R. W. Brooks gave a short history of the Lodge. Following the banquet the brethren returned to the lodge room. R. W. Bro. Brooks introduced the Grand Master who then introduced a large and distinguished suite the names of whom are recorded in the records. The Grand Master assumed the East and gave a very interesting address after which he presented fifty year medals to Brothers William J. Crosier, William Henderson and John Leishmann who were present. Brothers William S. Beeching, George W. Collins and George R. Stalker were unable to be present and the Grand Master instructed R. W. David Glassford, D. D. G. Master of the Holyoke 17th district to present these brothers with their medals. The Grand Master stated he had never seen such a beautiful Lodge room. A reception line was formed and all had an opportunity of meeting the Grand Officers.

- Oct. 25, 1935** R. W. David Glassford made a fraternal visit to the Lodge. After the usual introductions the Wor. Master announced that the Master Masons degree would be conferred on Charles Milton Gillette and that his father, R. W. Robert Gillette would confer the second and third sections.
- April 24, 1937** Past Masters night. D. D. G. Master Arthur N. Julian was present and duly received. According to the records the Old Timers did a good job. Of particular interest was the raising of Andrew B. Hogg by his brother William B. Hogg, Past Master of the Lodge.
- May 14, 1937** An unusual meeting was held in that both William Whiting and Mount Nonotuck officers took part in the degree work. First was a reception to the D.D.G. Master R. W. Bro. Arthur N. Julian. Then the officers of Mount Nonotuck Lodge assumed the stations and worked the first section of the Master Masons degree. The officers of William Whiting Lodge assumed the chairs and worked the rest of the degree.
- Oct. 1, 1937** Officers were installed by R. W. Bro. Dunbar as the installing officer who in his remarks spoke of the length of service of some of the officers. R. W. Brooks, Treasurer, was installed for the 27th time, Bro. Thomas C. Auld, Organist, 31 times, Bro. Walter Crosby, Tyler, 19 times and R. W. Robert Gillette, Secretary, 10 times. R. W. Arthur N. Julian, D. D. G. Master, gave an interesting talk and presented Bro. James Robinson with a Veterans Medal. He also stated that Bro. Charles Short who has been a Mason for 67 years would be presented a veterans medal at his present home in Cambridge. Brother Short joined Jerusalem Lodge in 1879, later became a charter member of Hampshire Lodge. Still later he moved to Holyoke and affiliated with Mount Tom.

MOUNT TOM LODGE, A. F. & A. M. 100TH ANNIVERSARY

- Feb. 18, 1938. The Past Masters conferred the Master Mason's degree upon Robert Hudson Aitken. Fifteen Past Masters took part in the work as well as the D. D. G. Master Arthur N. Julian. This is written very much in the past tense and there can be added that this is the brother who was privileged to be Wor. Master when our 100th anniversary was held.
- April 7, 1939 The question of Lodge finances was taken up, notice having been previously sent to the members. A motion was made and seconded that we live within our income. An extended discussion followed. After all had ample opportunity to discuss the motion, upon vote of the Lodge it was unanimously carried.
- April 14, 1939 R.W. Ronald Astley, newly appointed D. D. G. Master was the honor guest of the evening. The Past Masters of Mount Holyoke Lodge worked the Master Mason degree. A large and distinguished suite accompanied R. W. Astley and it was interesting to note that he was able to introduce every one by name, rank and lodge, evidencing a wonderfully retentive memory.
- May 26, 1939 Lodge was opened on Third degree at 7:45 P.M. Attendance 237. The Wor. Master announced the purpose of the meeting was to receive the Most. Wor. Grand Master Joseph L. Perry who was here for the purpose of meeting the Masons of the Holyoke 17th, the Chicopee 18th and Springfield 18th districts. After the usual introductions the Grand Master assumed the East and the Oriental Chair. He then presented Veteran Medals to R. W. Brooks and Bros. John Thomson and George P. Rice. Four other members, Edmund J. Crowthers, Frank L. Haskell, Addison L. Green and Dr. Frederick F. Celce were to receive medals but were unable to be present. He gave an interesting talk and called on other distinguished guests. During the evening several selections were rendered by a double quartette. Preceding the work a dinner was served to 175 in the auditorium.
- Mar. 15, 1940 90th Anniversary
Special Communication opened at 6 P.M. Attendance 305. Lodge opened on M. M. degree and immediately thereafter an intermission was declared.
At 6:30 a dinner was served in the auditorium. The diners were the officers and members of Mt. Tom and their wives, also a large and distinguished group of invited guests.
An orchestra furnished music during the dinner. The pupils of Walker's Dancing School rendered several numbers. Balloons and caps added to the gala occasion. Community singing was interspersed throughout the dinner. At eight o'clock all repaired to the Lodge room. R. Wor. Ronald Astley, D.D.G. Master was received and he introduced about seventy members of his suite. The Most Worshipful Grand Master sent his regrets at not being able to be present. Telegrams of felicitation were received from all the Masters in the district. Bro. Auld gave a pleasing organ recital and Bro. James Scott rendered several vocal solos. The Westinghouse Square Club quartette entertained with

several selections. The speakers of the evening were the Very Rev. Bro. Percy T. Edrop, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral and Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge and Wor. Raymond H. Cowing, P. M. of Mt. Moriah Lodge of Westfield, Rt. Wor. Bro. Brooks gave an interesting sketch of the history of the Lodge, and the talks of Rt. Wor. Astley and Edwin L. Davis, Past Deputy Grand Master were inspirational. Wor. Bro. George H. Sinclair donated a profusion of gorgeous bouquets for the dining room. Lodge was closed in form.

June 1, 1940

"Sixteen Hundred Years of Masonry."

Lodge opened on Third Degree at 5:15 P.M. Attendance 321. Lodge was called from labor to refreshment and brethren repaired to the auditorium where a very fine dinner was served. An orchestra played and a good community sing was enjoyed. Lodge reconvened. Rt. Wor. Ronald Astley, D. D. G. Master was received and assumed the East. He stated he had designated this occasion as "Sixteen Hundred Years of Masonry" from the fact that the total ages of the twenty who would take part in the conferring of the Third Degree equalled 1603 years, giving an average age of over 80 years per man. The charge was given by a Past Master ninety-three years of age. There were seven over eighty, nine over seventy. One was a young fellow only sixty-four. At the conclusion of the work, Most Worshipful Herbert W. Dean, Past Grand Master, R. W. Roy Perry Miles, Sr. Grand Warden and other distinguished Masons were called upon. This was easily one of the outstanding events of Western Massachusetts Masonry and its conception and planned execution was the product of the agile brain of our beloved Ronald Astley.

Sept. 13, 1940

Official visitation of D.D.G. Master Ronald Astley. After the usual procedure of such a meeting, Bro. John W. Toole ("Jack" to all of us) was escorted to the East and presented with the Joseph Warren Medal for distinguished Masonic service, and letters and telegrams from those who could not be present at the service were read. Bro. Toole accepted the Medal with words of appreciation and a pledge of continued service to Masonry.

Oct. 3, 1941

Father Installs Son.

Installation of officers. R. W. Harry Tower, D. D. G. Master was received. The Wor. Master introduced R. W. Ronald Astley as the installing officer, assisted by R. W. Robert Gillette, who installed his son Charles as Master for the ensuing year and presented him a souvenir gavel, the one he had used during his term of Master in 1914—twenty-seven years before. It is rather unusual for a father to install his son into the same office that he himself had held.

Jan. 30, 1942

Opened on Degree of Master Mason. The officers wore the new aprons and refinished regalia for the first time and the appearance was a decidedly pleasing change from the old. The Wor. Master called for volunteers for air patrol service for Saturday nights from 6 P.M. to 6 A. M. Sunday, at Scott Tower. This was one of the services the

community was asked to perform as a precaution against air raids. Other organizations were assigned other nights and daytime but it is satisfying to us at least to be able to say at this time when the war is all over and we are all again pursuing the even tenor of our ways that the Masons were the only society that faithfully carried out their assignment to the end.

During the past ten years the membership had steadily lessened due to the marked depression our country had passed through. The annual report of the Secretary showed a gain of eight members over the previous year and since that time up to now we have added two hundred names to our membership.

Jan. 8, 1943

Reception to R. W. Charles M. Gillette, D. D. G. Master. The Worshipful Master stated this communication had been called for the purpose of giving a reception to our own member who had been appointed as D.D.G. Master. The Wor. Master appointed R. W. Robert Gillette as chairman of the reception committee. He introduced the members of his suite, assumed the East and then resigned the gavel and chair to the Master. The Entered Apprentice degree was worked then the D.D.G. Master gave an interesting talk the underlying thought being the first tenet of our profession Brotherly Love, and urged particularly that the members write letters to our brother members or friends who are in the service.

March 3, 1943

It was announced by the Master the \$2000.00 left the Lodge by our late brother Geo. W. Collins had been paid to the Lodge less the estate tax of \$132.00 and that this money had been deposited in the Permanent Fund.

It was voted that receipted due cards should be sent to all members while in the armed service during the present war.

May 14, 1943

Past Masters night. Bro. Wilfred Reed introduced the D.D.G. Master Charles M. Gillette who in turn introduced the Past Masters. R. W. Robert Gillette who was to have been in charge was unable because of sickness to be present.

Following the work R. Wor. Charles M. Gillette, in behalf of the Lodge, presented R. Wor. Bros. A. A. Brooks and James G. Sinclair with past district deputy's aprons and stated he had presented a like apron to R. W. Robert Gillette at his home.

In the early days past deputy jewels or aprons were not given retiring Deputies but it became the custom in later years to do so.

Oct. 1, 1943

A regular meeting was called. After the regular work a resolution relative to the high esteem in which our brother Walter P. Crosby was held was adopted. It cited that he was born in 1859, was made a Master in Mount Tom Jan. 19, 1883—four months after he was twenty-one. These figures would make him a Mason for sixty years, and he was voted an honorary life membership, exempt from all lodge dues. A sizeable purse of money was also presented him.

At the time this history of Mount Tom is being prepared, Bro. Crosby

is still well and working and his age is ninety years. At this same meeting R. W. Robert Gillette presented his son, R. W. Charles M. Gillette, with a Past District Deputy jewel in behalf of the lodges of the district.

Mar. 18, 1944 The Wor. Master announced the passing of Bro. James Robertson, on March 15, 1944. He was the oldest living member of the Lodge. He was born in 1846. He received his E. A. degree Nov. 19, 1886, F. C. Dec. 31, 1885, and M. M. Feb. 16, 1887. He was presented a fifty year medal Oct. 22, 1937 and was a life member of the Lodge.

April 28, 1944 Past District Deputy Grand Masters Night.
The Wor. Master announced the purpose of the communication was to confer the Third Degree and that the work would be done by the past district deputies of the 17th Masonic District under the direction of R. Wor. Charles M. Gillette, D. D. G. Master. The work was very well rendered. With R. Wor. Bros. Campbell and Brooks over eighty and Sheldon in his middle seventies, it was indeed surprising to find them so perfect in the ritual. It goes to show that the old timers really committed the ritual, and what is equally important, knew how to deliver it.

At the conclusion of the work R. W. Robert Gillette presented R. W. Charles M. Gillette with a Past Deputy's apron. The presentation was from the Lodge and made at this time owing to his being subject to call for service to his country.

After several present and past deputies had been called upon, the District Deputy presented his father with a Joseph Warren Medal. He said the Most Wor. Grand Master was satisfied with the service rendered and he was pleased to have the privilege of presenting the jewel to his father.

May 13, 1944 A special meeting of the Lodge was called at 1:30 P.M. to attend the funeral of our late brother Wor. Andrew Purves. Brother Pruves, during his years of health was an active worker in Masonry and had received recognition for his excellent ritualistic work in the Scottish Rite Bodies. A delegation of 33rd degree Masons and others came from Springfield and were honorary bearers.

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is still well and working and his age is ninety years. At this same meeting R. W. Robert Gillette presented his son, R. W. Charles M. Gillette, with a Past District Deputy jewel in behalf of the lodges of the district.

Mar. 18, 1944 The Wor. Master announced the passing of Bro. James Robertson, on March 15, 1944. He was the oldest living member of the Lodge. He was born in 1846. He received his E. A. degree Nov. 19, 1886, F. C. Dec. 31, 1885, and M. M. Feb. 16, 1887. He was presented a fifty year medal Oct. 22, 1937 and was a life member of the Lodge.

April 28, 1944 Past District Deputy Grand Masters Night.
The Wor. Master announced the purpose of the communication was to confer the Third Degree and that the work would be done by the past district deputies of the 17th Masonic District under the direction of R. Wor. Charles M. Gillette, D. D. G. Master. The work was very well rendered. With R. Wor. Bros. Campbell and Brooks over eighty and Sheldon in his middle seventies, it was indeed surprising to find them so perfect in the ritual. It goes to show that the old timers really committed the ritual, and what is equally important, knew how to deliver it.

At the conclusion of the work R. W. Robert Gillette presented R. W. Charles M. Gillette with a Past Deputy's apron. The presentation was from the Lodge and made at this time owing to his being subject to call for service to his country.

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- April 6, 1945 "The question of paying off the mortgage, \$58,000.00 now on the Temple was brought up for consideration, the Secretary having read a letter received from the Holyoke Masonic Association. The suggestion conveyed in the letter was that William Whiting and Mount Tom Lodges pay \$20,000.00 collectively, the money to be taken from their Permanent Funds, and \$30,000.00 to be raised by pledges from the members. This \$30,000.00 to be paid to Mount Holyoke College, in payments of \$10,000.00 each one, two and three years from Jan. 1, 1945. The College would cancel \$8,000 on payment of the last \$10,000 by the Association." A motion approving of this plan was made and laid on the table until next regular meeting as required by our by-laws, and it is added here that the plan was unanimously accepted at the next regular meeting.
- June 17, 1945 Special meeting called to perform the last rites to our departed brother Wor. John Partington. It was little we could do for one who had done so much for Masonry in Holyoke and for Mount Tom in particular. Not only was he an outstanding exemplar of the tenets of our profession but his ministrations to the sick, the aged and the shut-ins of our Lodge was so outstanding that he well merits this recognition. We mourn the death of all our brothers and especially feel the loss of one who was so faithful and untiring in his service as Wor. Bro. Partington.
- Nov. 5, 1945 Bro. Edward F. Day was made an Honorary Member of the Lodge for the very fine and highly successful work accomplished as General Chairman of the campaign recently conducted to raise sufficient money to pay off the mortgage on the Temple. From start to finish this drive had the hearty support of all Masons and it is a very satisfying feeling to know that we own our Temple free of debt and may it never be otherwise.
- Feb. 1, 1946 Bro. John T. Turner was elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge in recognition of the long years of service he has rendered to the Craft in general both as President and Director of the Holyoke Masonic Association. His services were outstanding during the period of preparation and liquidation of the Temple mortgage.
- Feb. 22, 1946 The Past Masters were to confer the Master Mason's Degree. R. W. Oliver C. Roberts, D. D. G. Master was received. The Wor. Master, who recently had conceived the idea of sending greetings on the Masonic birthdays of the members then read the names of the members who received their Third Degree in February and asked such as were present to assemble in line west of the altar. There were twenty in line, among them Wor. William Morehouse who was Master of the Lodge forty years before and Bro. Walter Perry who received his degree forty-six years ago that very night. Bros. William Morehouse and Neil Gillies received Veteran Medals. Sixteen Past Masters took part in the work and Wor. Joseph A. Wood gave the Charge in a very intelligent and praiseworthy manner.

- Sept. 5, 1947 The death of Bro. Michael Abraham Marks on July 4 during the summer intermission was read. Bro. Marks was the second oldest member in years of membership. He was eighty-eight years of age and had been a member for sixty-six years.
- Sept. 19, 1947 R. Wor. William H. Bray made his Official Visitation and presented Wor. Bro. Charles Alderman with a Veterans Medal. Wor. Bro. Alderman was made a Mason in 1897 and was Master of the Lodge in 1912. At this time he was eighty-two years of age. His record for calling on the sick was outstanding and his sympathetic consideration for those in distress of any kind was always evident.
- Nov. 23, 1947 Sunday afternoon, 2:15 P.M., Lodge opened on Master Masons Degree and the Most Worshipful Samuel Holmes Wragg, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts was introduced by Wor. Bro. Douglas Rawlinson, Master of William Whiting Lodge who with R. Wor. Bros. A. A. Brooks, Robert Gillette and Charles M. Gillette formed the reception committee. After the introductions were over the Grand Master assumed the East and seated the Lodge. The Wor. Master stated the communication had been called for the purpose of attending a divine service at Skinner Memorial Chapel. The procession was made up of the officers and members of Mount Tom and William Whiting Lodges, also members of the other Masonic bodies. In addition members of the Eastern Star and Rainbow Girls attended the service and the Rainbow Girls conducted their Candle Light Service.
- Rev. Bro. Ronald J. Tamblyn, member of William Whiting Lodge, conducted the service. Bro. James Scott was soloist and Mrs. Robert B. Pirie, organist of the Eastern Star, presided at the organ. The Most Wor. Grand Master was the speaker, and gave an interesting, inspiring and enlightening talk on Free Masonry.
- At the conclusion of the service the Lodges returned to the Temple and the Most Wor. G. Master closed the Lodge in Ample Form, the Grand Marshal extinguished the Lights. Wor. Bro. Ball, Supt. of the Masonic Home, was the guest of the Grand Master and of Mount Tom Lodge.
- Mar. 19, 1948 Past Masters night comes every year and calls out a goodly number of brothers who enjoy listening and watching the work of the "Old Timers." Usually no reference in particular is given to such meetings in our historical sketch but this meeting is quite unusual insofar as the occupation of the East is concerned. Wor. Bro. Charles E. Alderman worked the first section, R. W. Bro. Robert Gillette the second section, and R. W. A. A. Brooks the third section. R. Wor. Gillette in assuming, the East, called attention to the fact that R. Wor. Bro. Alderman, was 83 years of age, and was Master in 1912 and that R. Wor. Brooks was 85 years old and was Master 46 years ago. Rt. Wor. Gillette was a youngster of only 72 years and was Master 34 years ago. The Combined ages of these three Past Masters was 240 years.

MOUNT TOM LODGE, A. F. & A. M. 100TH ANNIVERSARY

- Dec. 23, 1948 Meeting for purpose of Master Masons Degree.
One of the candidates was the son of Wor. Bro. Emory V. Easterling. In the Second Section Wor. Bro. Robert B. Clapp acted as Senior Deacon and Wor. Bro. Easterling raised his son in full form. At the conclusion of the work the father presented the son with a Masonic ring and Bro. Marshall presented him with a pin. It is indeed a great privilege for a father, a Past Master of a Lodge, to have an opportunity of raising his own son to the degree of Master Mason.
- Feb. 25, 1949 Another father raises his son. - After receiving our newly appointed D. D. G. Master R. W. Ralph B. Wilson, Wor. Bro. James R. Smith, our Junior Past Master had the privilege of again occupying the East and of raising his son to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The son, as well as Mount Tom Lodge, can well be proud of the work that Wor. Bro. Smith gave not only tonight but whenever he is called upon. At the conclusion of the work Wor. Bro. Smith presented his son with a Masonic pin, the gift of his uncle.
- May 6, 1949 It was called to the attention of the members that our Hundredth Anniversary would be in March 1950 and it was voted that R. W. Robert Gillette be elected as General Chairman of the occasion.
- Sept. 9, 1949 This was the Official Visitation of R. W. Ralph B. Wilson, D. D. G. Master. After the usual introduction and inspection of the charter, records, etc., the District Deputy presented R. W. Ronald Astley, Sr. Gr. Warden of the Grand Lodge who installed R. W. Charles H. Steele as D. D. G. Master to fill out the unexpired term of our late brother R. W. John Edward Almgren, D. D. G. Master of the Chicopee District.
- Sept. 30, 1949 Installation of Officers. After witnessing a number of installations one comes to accept them as a matter of course. Occasionally there is an exception worthy of mention. Tonight when Robert H. Aitken was being installed, his father was called to the East and requested to invest his son with the jewel of his office, to place in his hand the gavel of authority, to escort him to the Oriental Chair and to take a seat in the East for the remainder of the meeting. Rt. Wor. Charles Gillette was asked to install his father Rt. Wor. Robert Gillette as Secretary. These diversions from the usual procedure added interest to the occasion and one could easily imagine Rt. Wor. David Glassford, the installing Master, adding just such "human interest" touches to the occasion.



